

Hafa Adai!

Deadline to apply for unemployment aid is extended. **PAGE 7**  
Tinian DRC closing but help is still available. **PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## 'I serve everyone on Rota'

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig described a petition against him as “crazy” but, on a conciliatory note, said the people behind it should just accept the outcome of the November election since “people have already spoken.”



Atalig

At the same time, Atalig said his office has always been open not only to his supporters, but also to his critics since his duty is to help everyone who is part of the Rota community.

“We have always been a democracy and I am reaching out to them. We welcome everybody. My office has always been open to all—supporters or my critics. I’m open to talk about the daily issues that may impact the people of Rota. Everyone has room

**See ROTA on Page 4**

## House creates cannabis committee

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Republican Party leadership in the House of Representatives has created a cannabis committee that would handle any marijuana-related legislation arising from Public Law 20-66 or the Taulamwaar Sensible Cannabis Act of 2018.

P.L. 20-66, enacted into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Sept. 21, legalizes and controls cannabis use in the CNMI. The new law is being looked at as a springboard for a possible new cannabis industry in the CNMI.

The incoming House speaker, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao, said

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### UKULELE CONCERT

Students of Saipan Community School's 6th, 7th, and 8th grades perform in a ukulele concert at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library yesterday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

## High hopes to revive the Japan market

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority are pinning their hopes of reviving the slumping Japanese tourism market on Sky-

Cavanagh

mark Airlines Inc.

HANMI chair and MVA board member Gloria Cavanagh said the

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# Local

## Bank OK'd to include brother of judge's wife in her suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division has allowed Bank of Hawaii to include the brother of the wife of Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja in her defamation lawsuit against the bank.

In an order last week, Bankruptcy Division Chief Judge

Ramona V. Manglona said BOH is not a creditor attempting to bypass the protections of bankruptcy court for its own satisfaction.

Rather, Manglona said, BOH seeks to bring debtor Joaquin Villagomez Deleon Guerrero into the lawsuit filed by his sister, Frances Deleon Guerrero Naraja, so that it may obtain a complete resolution of the ownership rights to

a disputed \$290,000.

That would assist the disposition of the pending bankruptcy action that Joaquin Deleon Guerrero filed before the bankruptcy court, said Manglona in granting BOH's request.

The ownership issue of the \$290,000 is the subject in Mrs. Naraja's lawsuit against BOH. The money was held in a joint bank account of Joaquin De-

leon Guerrero and two of his sisters, Mrs. Naraja and Gloria Deleon Guerrero Sablan.

In his bankruptcy filings, Deleon Guerrero characterized the \$290,000 as a nonpriority unsecured claim that he owes the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

The money is currently being held by the Superior Court pursuant to a writ of execution in a lawsuit against Deleon

Guerrero and his wife by the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Mrs. Naraja's defamation suit against BOH alleges that the money was in her account, to which she "had an absolute right to use."

BOH, through counsel Sean Frink and Catherine J. Cachero, asked the bankruptcy court to lift the automatic stay in Deleon Guerrero's bank-

ruptcy case.

The bank made the request so it may file a third-party claim against Deleon Guerrero in Mrs. Naraja's suit, along with the other potential claimants to the money so that one court can determine the various parties' interests in the money.

The filing of a bankruptcy petition acts as an automatic

See **BANK** on Page 4

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## Norita awarded medal for Fire Service Leadership



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita shows the medal honoring his leadership skills during the annual Western Pacific Fire Chiefs conference last Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Clyde Norita, the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner for three years and counting, was recognized and

presented with a Fire Service Leadership medal for his leadership throughout the years as CNMI fire chief.

Norita was presented with the medal at the annual Western Pacific Fire Chiefs conference held last

Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Norita was not expecting the accolade and was caught by surprise. "I did not know about it...I was surprised and blindsided...but humbled...I didn't know it was going to happen," he said.

Norita credits his leadership skills to three groups who have helped him over the years: the fire chiefs in the Pacific, the Torres administration, and his team at DFEMS.

"I owe this to Pacific Islands chiefs for guiding me. ...I also owe this to our governor and our lieutenant governor who have supported DFEMS. ...Without their support, all these things would not really happen. They might have chosen me but, without their support, it's not going to happen...and, lastly, my guys. I could be the best fire chief in the world but if my guys don't get behind me and support the vision of the leadership, it's not going to happen," he said.

Norita has been DFEMS commissioner for three years now; he started back in 2015.

The Western Pacific group of fire chiefs includes fire chiefs from California, Alaska, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, all the western states, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands.

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# 5 couples so far for group wedding

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 2nd Annual Group Wedding already has five couples registered, according to a representative of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

According to Fr. Jason Granado, the diocese's chairman for marriage and family life, the annual group wedding already has five registered

couples participating as of yesterday.

In 2017, the first year the group wedding became an annual event for the diocese, a group of 13 couples registered for the event.

Granado noted in an email to *Saipan Tribune* that the main purpose of the event is to encourage couples "to receive the sacrament of matrimony."

"The diocese realizes that there are many couples today who are either cohabiting or civilly married," Granado said. "...We want to offer an opportunity for those who want to get married in church."

Granado said the common notion that church weddings are expensive is false; he said the ceremony itself is free.

"The reality is that all sac-

raments are free and, with regards to the wedding, most 'expenses' are because of secondary elements such as the party, decorations, dresses etc. We want to help our parishioners understand the importance of the gift of the sacraments," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Group Wedding would take place on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family,

which is scheduled to be on Dec. 29, at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe at 10am.

Bishop Ryan Jimenez, according to Granado, would be officiating the weddings.

## ROTA

From Page 1

in my administration," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune*.

The petition—spearheaded by Peter A. Camacho—is soliciting signatures from Rota voters to convince Atalig to disassociate himself from his office while his corruption cases remain pending in court. Thomas A. Manglona and Abraham M. Ogo were later named as also behind the petition.

The petition had already drawn 67 signatures yesterday.

"I have seen the petition and I think it is a crazy idea because the people have already spoken. They should accept the outcome of the election since we are a small community. We must come together and help each other," said Atalig yesterday. "They just want me out but let us not anymore perpetuate hate. I am not forcing them but, hopefully, they could respond and we could meet and talk things over. We don't want this to affect our services for the peo-

ple of Rota."

Atalig is facing corruption charges in the U.S. District Court for the NMI and in the CNMI Superior Court. He and his girlfriend allegedly used public funds for several personal off-island trips.

Atalig remains upbeat and is optimistic. "I'm not thinking of losing. I have faith in God and confidence in our judicial system. I stay positive. ...I'm not afraid. It is a bit sad that they have to put out a petition against me. Why they have to go through a petition? The election is over. The people have already spoken and they again put their trust in me."

In last month's elections, Atalig emerged on top of a five-person mayoralty race on Rota. He won a second term, earning 576 votes for an almost 100-vote winning margin over independent candidate Julie O. Manglona (487), while outgoing Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon came third with 345. Crispin M. Ayuyu (135) and Richard E. Taisacan (61) were the other candidates.

## Rota celebrates Field of Heroes three months post-Mangkhut

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

TanHoldings Corp. and Tan Siu Lin Foundation hosted the annual 9/11 and Field of Heroes commemoration ceremony on Rota exactly three months since the devastation of Typhoon Mangkhut.

Dec. 11 not only marked the third month after Typhoon Mangkhut, but also served as the day to commemorate those who lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks and to recognize local heroes.

According to TanHoldings community relations director Carline Sablan, the event was postponed twice—the first time following Typhoon

Mangkhut and the second following Super Typhoon Yutu.

"The Rota Field of Heroes commemoration ceremony was initially scheduled to take place back on Sept. 11, but this was not possible due to Typhoon Mangkhut. Rota... sustained significant damage and we wanted to allow the island time to recover from the typhoon. The ceremony was rescheduled for Oct. 26, and again, was postponed due to Super Typhoon Yutu," she said.

Despite that, the effect the ceremony had on the island's residents and TanHoldings and TSL Foundation staff remained the same, Sablan said.

"I am grateful to have been

part of the event...despite the delays. The ceremony, as always, was deeply moving. The speeches, the 21-gun salute, the water salute, and the playing of tapes were all very touching as we gathered to remember the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon 17 years ago and honor community heroes," she said.

During the ceremony, members of the Rota community paid tribute to past and present military service members, police officers, fire and rescue personnel, EMTs, paramedics, and other first responders.

Sablan said that 109 flags

were erected on Rota last Tuesday as part of the 9/11 Field of Heroes commemoration ceremony.

Rota Mayor's Office press secretary Ivan Mereb expressed gratitude to TanHoldings and the TSL Foundation for pulling through with the commemoration ceremony despite the delay.

"Thanks to the partnership of TanHoldings and Rota Mayor's Office and all their staff for their hard work in executing the success of this event. ...Thank you to our honorees, their family members, active service men and women, and veterans. This year, 109 flags were purchased and flown," he said.

## HOUSE

From Page 1

they have to first clarify and finalize the rules for all of the 10 committees in the 21st Legislature. "The ad hoc committee would make the proper definition for whatever motions are needed and can be made during sessions."

"[The cannabis committee] is for consideration because of the forthcoming legislation that we're looking at about the commission. It will be a full-time kind like the [Commonwealth] Casino Commission. There's a new industry that we're going to explore and I don't think two

hours every two months is going to justify the regulations that they are going to put forth."

Attao is not open to suggestions to merge the cannabis committee with other existing committees, like the gaming committee.

"We can merge it with Gaming but it might be too big of an animal, too big of a responsibility. There's still a lot of work to do, with the [Cannabis Commission] commissioners given 180 days to organize themselves," said Attao.

"We create a committee and one of the chairs would be able to chair two [committees]. Take Ways and Means, where every chair of the other

committees are members. On top of that, Rota and Tinian needs to be represented."

He also shared the idea of having vice speaker Janet U. Maratita chair the cannabis committee after the majority's caucus had already chosen the heads of the nine other committees. "I did share it with [Maratita]." "...But I cannot speak for her because she has to decide on her own. We're going respect her decision, whatever it may be."

The other committee chairs in the incoming legislature are Reps. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (Commerce and Tourism), Roman C. Benavente (Education), L.J. Castro (Federal and Foreign

Affairs), Ralph Yumul (Gaming), Jose Itibus (Health and Social Services), Joel Camacho (Judicial and Governmental Operations), Antonio Borja of Tinian (Natural Resources), Francisco Dela Cruz (Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication), and Ivan Blanco (Ways and Means).

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero will be the vice speaker in the 21st Legislature. Rep. John Paul P. Sablan will be the floor leader.

The speaker, vice speaker, and the floor leader cannot chair any committee. The vice speaker and floor leader, however, can be a member of any of the committees.

## BANK

From Page 2

stay on the commencement of judicial actions against the debtor. The purpose of the stay is to give debtors a reprieve from their creditors and collection efforts while they organize their estate.

In granting BOH's request, Manglona said under certain circumstances, the bankruptcy court can provide relief by terminating, annulling, modifying, or conditioning the automatic stay, after notice and a hearing.

Manglona said one ground for relief from the automatic stay is "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party in interest."

BOH argued that Mrs. Naraja's defamation suit is a non-bankruptcy suit involving multiple parties, and it cannot be effectively resolved without the involvement of Deleon Guerrero, who was one of three parties named in the bank account at issue.

Deleon Guerrero himself asserted that he has no personal interest in the \$290,000. At most, Deleon Guerrero has asserted a fiduciary interest in the money in his role as a trustee of the Family Trust.

Manglona noted that at the hearing last week, Thurs-

day, Deleon Guerrero withdrew his opposition to the bank's request based on the bank's argument.

Manglona said Deleon Guerrero agreed that the hardship from lifting the stay falls on the bankruptcy estate, not the debtor or himself, because the case trustee would be the actual party to litigate BOH's third party claim.

Case trustee Mark Heath did not assert a position to BOH's request.

Manglona said she finds that a limited lifting of the stay in this instance does not violate the general policies underlying the stay.

Mrs. Naraja is suing BOH for allegedly refusing to honor her eight cashier's checks totaling \$290,000 that she had purchased in 2016. She accuses BOH of telling other banks on Saipan that she had improperly secured the cashier's checks.

Aside from defamation, Mrs. Naraja, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is also suing BOH for allegedly dishonoring the cashier's checks and conversion.

Mrs. Naraja seeks for the return of \$290,000.

BOH filed a counterclaim against Mrs. Naraja and third-party claims against CDA, Gloria Deleon Guerrero Sablan, and the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

## JAPAN

From Page 1

co-promotional agreement signed between the CNMI government and the airline last week would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

"When it comes to Japan, Skymark is going to be right now our flight direct from Japan. It just makes sense," said Cavanagh after MVA board's meeting last Wednesday.

She said Japan is the CNMI's first and only market for many years and that the hotel association has always

supported the Japan market. Cavanagh said they were always the priority.

"We're very happy and we're looking forward to this relationship with Skymark and to welcome back the Japan market. It is very important," she added.

The CNMI needs to diversify its tourism markets, in order to have a healthy economy, Cavanagh said.

"We see, for instance, the Korean market that was not doing so well after the storm. To pick up Japan again is a very good risk," she added.

MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion said

they are excited about the partnership between MVA, the governor's office, and Skymark.

Concepcion said Skymark is going to start with charters this spring or March.

A Skymark team will attend MVA's general membership meeting today, Friday, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to give a background of the airline company, so that people in the CNMI will be familiar with who they are.

Skymark officials are here this week to meet personnel at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth Ports Authority, as well as with a catering

company and ground handling company, so they could begin operations in the CNMI.

"We're excited about it. It's going to be the revival of the Japan market," Concepcion said.

MVA board member Chris Nelson said they are excited that the team from Skymark, whom they met in Japan, are here on the island.

Nelson said Skymark is expected to talk about their upcoming flight from Japan at the MVA membership meeting.

"We don't know the details but we are expecting to hear positive news from them [today]," he said.



## Rotary in talks with NMHC for project repairs

The Rotary Club of Saipan is looking to tap Community Development Block Grants or Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to repair the typhoon damage sustained by the Kagman Family Park and the Garapan Skate Park.

Club vice president Brian Clayton told Rotarians last Tuesday that they have two options to repair both projects: to work with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and work on a CDBG application or to raise the funds themselves.

"[I] and [club] secretary Sonya [Dancoe] have already contacted NMHC and we are trying to get them to use CDBG funding," Clayton told Rotarians Tuesday. He noted that NMHC has yet to get back to the club.

In a separate interview after the meeting, Clayton said: "We were told there was FEMA funding available [for repairs] but we have to apply for it."

According to Clayton, he was told that FEMA funding may also be used for CDBG projects; however, it would need the coordination of the club and the NMHC in its application.

"We are trying to get a piece of [the CDBG] so that we can repair the Kagman Family Park and the Garapan Skate Park," Clayton told Rotarians. "We are hoping that we would get some kind of response but it's going through the federal government. It could take months," he said.

Clayton noted in an interview that NMHC awarded the club with CDBG funding for both projects.

Referring to the damage sustained by the Garapan Skate Park, club president Greg Borja said in a separate interview that the club could convince the CNMI government to get the fence fixed. "If not, that could just be a project we could look out for in the future," he added.

Borja noted that the club's focus right now includes maternal and child health but the club is committed to both projects' repairs. **(Erwin Encinares)**

## BOH Gualo Rai is resuming its schedule this Monday

Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan will resume normal operating hours following Super Typhoon Yutu, beginning Monday, Dec. 17.

Normal branch hours: Monday through Thursday (9am to 4pm); Fridays (9am to 6pm); Saturdays (9am to 1pm); Sundays (closed).

Bank of Hawaii ATMs on Saipan are now fully operational. **(PR)**

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# MCS to hold invitational mock trial competition



The official 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship team photo of Mount Carmel School's Mock Trial Knights, who represented the Northern Marianas at the national competition.

MCSX

Mount Carmel School will host the island's first ever invitational mock trial competition early next year.

Invitations to the competition have been extended to all public and private middle schools and high schools in the CNMI.

School president and mock trial coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero hopes the competition will help students interested in mock trial continue their passion, especially in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We know that many students have lost some practice time due to the typhoon, so this invitational will be a

way to help them get back on track," Deleon Guerrero said. "Invitational competitions are also a great way to help students hone their craft, gain much needed practice, and network with other mock trial teams in a less competitive and more fun atmosphere."

In addition to helping mock trial students, Mount Carmel School hopes the competition will help the CNMI Mock Trial Program.

With the CNMI Judiciary building closed right now due to air-conditioning and mold problems, it is not clear how this year's CNMI competition will be held. Mount Carmel's invitational competition will

be one way to experiment with holding mock trial rounds at a school, much in the same way that speech and debate events are held at CNMI schools throughout the year.

The Mount Carmel School invitational competition will be a two-round tournament with each team playing each side once and winners determined by point accumulation. The case to be used will be the 2018 CNMI Mock Trial Case, *CNMI vs Lou Perez*. The school decided to use that case since many current mock trial competitors may still be familiar with the case because of their work on it last year. Also, the competition will use the CNMI Mock Trial Competition Rules and the National High School Mock Trial Competition Federal Rules of Evidence. Schools and students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to participate. Each team must have a minimum of seven students to compete, with six competing and one serving as a timekeeper.

While Mount Carmel School will host the competition, the school emphasized that her students would not compete in order to ensure fairness for all competing schools. However, if an odd number of teams register, the school would field its junior high team to balance out the number of teams.

The competition will be held at the school's campus on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 8am to 2pm. Registration for the competition is free and may be completed online at the following [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019\\_MCSMock-TrialInvitational](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019_MCSMock-TrialInvitational). The deadline for registration is Friday, Jan. 18. (MCS)

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# Deadline to apply for unemployment aid is extended

» **DUA deadline extended from Dec. 16, 2018, to Jan. 15, 2019**

The CNMI Department of Labor announced yesterday that it has extended the application submission deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance for Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu from Dec. 16, 2018 to Jan. 15, 2019.

The DUA program provides payment relief and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster.

DUA claims are only taken after the President of the United States, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, declares specific areas of the state as disaster areas and authorizes *Individual Assistance* to individuals working in the disaster areas.

DUA funding is provided by FEMA and does not come from employer payroll taxes. On Sept. 29, 2018, the President authorized a major disaster declaration for the CNMI due to Typhoon Mangkhut that occurred on Sept. 10-11, 2018. Almost one month later, the President authorized another major disaster declaration for the CNMI due to Super Typhoon Yutu that occurred October 24-26, 2018. Both declarations authorized Individual Assistance, including DUA, for the islands of Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands (Yutu only). On Nov. 16, 2018, the CNMI DOL announced the availability of DUA and a filing deadline of Dec. 16, 2018, for DUA applications.

"Now is the time to avail of employment assistance if you were adversely affected by the two recent typhoons. We have made this a priority, and we are working with our federal partners to assist every impacted resident," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"The CNMI Department of Labor has been hard at work receiving and reviewing applications, and we want to remind our community that we will continue to receive through Jan. 15. Our priority is to assist every impacted worker who became unemployed or had their hours reduced because of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

Interested applicants may also visit the DUA Application Center at the Springs Plaza on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, for one-on-one assistance. (PR)

For additional information about DUA or assistance in completing an application, contact Division of Employment Services director Eugene Tebuteb at 788-4180 or DES Labor Certification supervisor James Ulloa at 788-4183.

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TRANSIT 150 XL LR	JKA83059	OXFORD WHITE	\$4,000
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# 'We cannot chase him away...where will he go?'

By WALT GOODRIDGE  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It was four days after Super Typhoon Yutu tore through the islands of Saipan and Tinian and the Joeten Supermarket in Susupe had just re-opened to the public. It was the first time since the typhoon that I was able to resume my daily routine of checking the shelves for fruits and vegetables.

I approached the worker dutifully stocking the shelves in the produce department. His name is Randy Vicente. Originally from the Philippines, Randy has had only this one employer in his 25 years on the island. And, in all the years I've lived on Saipan and shopped there, Randy has always been quite friendly, always offering a bubbly "Good morning, Mr. Walt!" offering information on upcoming sales, asking if there was anything he could help with, and making this mundane experience quite pleasant. Today was no different in that regard. However, I could tell something was, in fact, different. The area around his eyes had the telltale darkness and

showed the strain of someone who hadn't slept in days.

"So, what's your situation?" I asked him.

"Oh, me? I'm homeless!" he replied, and despite the direness of what he had just said, he delivered it with the same bubbly smile as if he were greeting me on a normal day. "My roof is gone, and my apartment is destroyed," he added.

"So, where are you staying?" I asked.

"Nowhere," he replied. "For the past four nights, I've been sleeping in the front lobby of [Saipan] World Resort."

I asked Randy if the hotel staff and security gave him a hard time while he was in the lobby. He said no, but he did overhear them saying "We cannot chase him away... where will he go?"

"Did you try sleeping in a shelter?" I suggested.

"What shelter?" he asked.

I had heard from another worker that Saipan Community Church had a shelter. I told Randy about it, and he confirmed that he, too, had heard about it just that same morning, and would be giving



Walt Goodridge, right, presents Randy Vicente with \$250 donated by generous people in the U.S. mainland as well as other countries.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

it a try that evening after work.

"What about your stuff?" I asked.

"Oh, it's still there."

"You mean in the apartment?"

"Yes."

During the storm, as Yutu's Category 5 winds increased in intensity, Randy realized his apartment would likely not

withstand the pounding, so he sought refuge and rode out the storm in the nearby Nauru building. He returned to find his room destroyed.

It saddened me to realize that here he was, showing up for work for his 6am to 1pm shift, as he'd done for 25 years, spending precious daylight hours unloading boxes,

stocking shelves and helping customers, while his own personal belongings were sitting in a roofless single room with only three and a half walls, exposed to the elements, and with nowhere to return to shower and get a good night's sleep. I thought about the indignity and mental strain of sitting in a hotel lobby hour

after hour, night after night, while hotel staff and security guards passed by knowing you weren't a guest.

The thought also crossed my mind that what was needed was some sort of free storage facility for typhoon victims.

My original plan was to use the contributed funds to get gift certificates for two nights at a hotel so he and others in his situation might enjoy a semblance of "normal" living. However, now that incoming airline flights have resumed, the hotels here on Saipan are booked solid. Therefore, I gave Randy the option of a certificate for future use, or cash.

So, yesterday, thanks to the generous contributions of people in the U.S. mainland as well as other countries, I was able to give him a gift of \$250! Here's a quick video of him receiving it and his thanks to those who contributed! You don't have to be a megacorporation or millionaire philanthropist to help others. There are still hundreds more we can help with contributions of any size to encourage them to stay strong. CNMI strong.

To watch Randy receiving his gift, visit [www.gofundme.com/cnmis-strong](http://www.gofundme.com/cnmis-strong) or [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vThzevgkLY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vThzevgkLY)



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# Joeten foundation backs Red Cross' Yutu relief efforts

The Joeten Group of Companies' charitable arm, the Joeten Daidai Foundation, donated a total of \$40,000 cash and in-kind to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Tuesday, Dec. 11, to help relief efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 25, 2018.

"The American Red Cross is a well-structured, reputable organization which has been in existence for over 100 years," said foundation executive director Patty T. Palacios. "With the assistance of the many devoted volunteers that have dedicated their time and efforts, we trust that the donation will surely reach those who are in need. The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has proven time and time

again its ability to respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively in the face of countless disasters. We are happy to support them in their commitment to helping our people, our island, our CNMI."

The donation, disbursed by the Joeten Daidai Foundation, was supported by Joeten affiliates including Saipan Steve-dore Co., Saipan Shipping Co., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., as well as business partners Nanbo Insurance Guam, CKW Financial Group Hawaii, B & B Enterprises, and LJC Corp, among others. **(PR)**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Joeten Daidai Foundation donates a total of \$40,000 cash and in-kind to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Tuesday, Dec. 11.



## CPA OK's 4 emergency expenses totaling \$1.4M

Two days after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation, the Commonwealth Ports Authority issued four emergency notices and emergency expenditure of funds totaling \$1.4 million.

CPA board financial affairs committee chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said these were for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, amounting to \$600,000;

Port of Saipan, \$300,000; Tinian International Airport, \$300,000; and Port of Tinian, \$200,000.

King-Hinds said CPA issued the emergency notices and emergency expenditure of funds were issued last Oct. 27.

Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25, causing massive destruction. The Saipan airport was shut down and it was only last

Nov. 23 that the first international commercial flight arrived on Saipan.

King-Hinds said the emergency notice would possibly be amended to increase the authorized amount due to the severe damage sustained by the Saipan airport.

This item was discussed at the CPA board committee meeting last Monday. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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# Torres thanks Pacific neighbors for their aid

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres used his presence at the 15th Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting to also personally thank the CNMI's Pacific neighbors for the help they extended after Super Typhoon Yutu slammed the CNMI last October.

"As many of you know... our islands...were hit by Super Typhoon Yutu, a Category 5 [storm] with winds [of] over 200 miles per hour. This storm devastated the islands of Saipan and Tinian," said Torres in the meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu.

"While it destroyed a substantial amount of infrastructure, including fisheries-related infrastructure, it did not diminish the resolve of our people to remain resilient as we work toward rebuilding our island home."

That is when the CNMI's Pacific island neighbors pitched in to help the CNMI by sending personnel and other types of assistance in helping the CNMI.

"I would like to personally extend my thanks to the state of Hawaii for their assistance extended to our islands to support relief and rebuilding ef-

forts," he said

Torres also credited the help of hundreds of Pacific region soldiers assigned to Joint Task Group Saipan, including those in the Army Reserve. "They supported the CNMI's efforts on both islands [Saipan and Tinian] in debris clearing, setting up food and water distribution stations, providing emergency

service supplies, and helping our islands rebuild."

The CNMI's Micronesian neighbors also answered the call to help the Commonwealth. "I also wish to extend my appreciation to our federal partners and all the various [non-governmental organizations]."

"Our neighboring region—

the territory of Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands—have been aiding and restoring normalcy to the many lives that have been affected by this devastation."

Torres added: "Such devastation does highlight the importance of food security

and long-term access to tuna resources that have fed our people for many years."

Torres also attended the Western Governors Association meeting where he was

elected to be the next chair of the Pacific Basin Development Council. He was joined by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, the incoming lieutenant governor, on this trip.

## \$20.1M from FEMA for PSS, NMC, CUC, CNMI Judiciary

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced yesterday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has obligated \$20.1 million for classroom structures for the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, island power restoration, and a generator for the CNMI Judiciary at 100-percent federal share.

The project worksheets include \$4.5 million to PSS for 42 classroom structures, \$2.3 million to NMC for 22 structures, \$13.4 million in power restoration, and \$151,000 to the CNMI Judiciary for generator use.

"These were all critical priorities that we requested from FEMA in order to address several key areas," Torres said.

"We wanted to give our students, teachers, and staff at PSS and NMC strong temporary classroom facilities while we rebuild their schools and campuses, and we wanted to make sure that our Judiciary can return to normal operations as much as possible to accommodate their caseload.

And, of course, island power restoration was at the very top of the list, as we work with CUC, the Army Corps of Engineers, and our utility partners from Guam, Colorado, and Micronesia. We are really pushing on several requests to address key areas of the recovery. It has been progressing really well, and I thank FEMA, our federal and military partners, and our local first responders for working daily to achieve a sense of normalcy again."

Virginia Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative, said the project worksheets are just the first of many to come as we move forward in the recovery.

"Our team here at the CNMI Joint Field Office are really working hard to get our islands back up and stronger than ever. The collaboration with FEMA and our federal partners has been tremendous, and we look forward to more of the same as we move forward on our road to recovery."(PR)



### DINNER TIME

Construction Electrician 3rd Class Thomas Bautz, from Lake Mary, Fla., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, Detachment Guam, serves dinner to sailors at a Seabee camp on Tinian. Service members from Joint Region Marianas and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command are providing Department of Defense support to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' civil and local officials as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency-supported Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts.

U.S. NAVY/MACS2 KELSEY J. HOCKENBERGER



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-032

#### Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-032, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 14, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



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## AMENDED NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on **Tuesday, December 18, 2018**, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes (November 27, 2018)
- II. BOARD ORGANIZATION**
  1. Election of Officers
  2. Appointment of Standing Committee Chairpersons
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- IV. CORRESPONDENCES**
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  1. Financial Affairs Committee
  2. Airport Facilities Committee
  3. Seaport Facilities Committee
  4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- VII. OLD BUSINESS**
  1. Terminal Tariff Regulations (Modular Units) – Final Adoption
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
  1. Supplemental Budget Requests:
    - a. Saipan International Airport A/C Replacement Project – Change Order & Supplemental Request
    - b. Operations Paint Machine
  2. Equipment Policy and Procedures
  3. Skymark Airlines Office Lease
  4. Tandem Skydive Lease Extension
  5. Future Governor's Directives – Regulation and Resolution
  6. Standard Operating Procedures – Credit Card
  7. CPA Board Resolutions:
    - a. Charles H. Ada II
    - b. Skymark Airlines Inc.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- X. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral statements.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

December 13, 2018



# Prehistoric cultural features found at Guam site

**ASAN, GUAM**—A team consisting of members from the Guam State Historic Preservation Office, the state archaeologist, along with environmental managers and archaeologists from Marine Corps Activity Guam visited the construction site for the future Marine Corps base in Finegayan last Dec. 13.

The visit followed the discovery of prehistoric cultural features during construction work that was taking place on Dec. 5.

The artifacts observed included two possible fire features, Latte Period pottery shards, and several hand-tool lithics.

Consistent with the 2011 Programmatic Agreement, once the archaeological monitor noted the discovery, all work was halted at the site, the area was appropriately cordoned off, and the Marine Corps Activity Guam archaeologist was notified.

The Navy and Marine Corps, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation

Office, continue to uphold every commitment made to preserve cultural resources at the site of the future Marine Corps base in Finegayan.

"We had a very productive visit today with SHPO staff, including state archaeologist John Mark Joseph. We thank our preservation partners for discussing matters face-to-face and for their effort to have a common understanding of the prehistoric site" said Ronnie Rogers, MCAG archae-

ologist. "We also appreciate Ms. Lynda Aguon's detailed comments on the find. We are in the process of providing appropriate consideration of her feedback for inclusion in the Navy's mitigation plan under development."

In accordance with the 2011 PA, the DON will perform data recovery, which is a form of archaeological investigation that is intended to create a permanent record of a cultural site's characteristics through careful exca-

vation and study to preserve the information for posterity. After investigations are completed, the educational material will be shared with the public for opportunities to appreciate and learn about the daily lives of Guam's early inhabitants.

The Department of the Navy respects the rich cultural heritage of Guam and remains committed to the cultural and historical preservation of the island.

For more information, visit

the Cultural Resources Information web site: <http://go.usa.gov/kZWG>; the Joint Region Marianas website, and the Marine Corps Activity Guam Facebook page. (PR)



## NEW LEADERSHIP BLOC

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), seated center, joins his Republican Party colleagues in finalizing the House leadership of the 21st Legislature in a meeting Wednesday at IHOP restaurant in Garapan. Attao is the incoming House speaker of the 21st Legislature, with Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), seated left, chosen as vice speaker while Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) will be the floor leader.

JON PEREZ

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# UOG takes part in dialog on planetary health



The panelists of the Oceania Planetary Health Forum, held Nov. 5-6 in Nadi, Fiji.

UOG CENTER FOR ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability contributed to a first-time forum on environmental and health challenges in the Oceania Region.

The Oceania Planetary Health Forum, held Nov. 5-6 in Nadi, Fiji, brought together medical doctors, researchers in health, and environmental leaders to review regional developments in the fields of ecology and human health as well as urgent health impacts from environmental degradation.

Else Demeulenaere, associate director for natural



UOG CENTER FOR ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY

Else Demeulenaere, associate director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability, presents on the Guam Restoration of Watersheds project on one of the forum's panels.

resources at the Center for Island Sustainability, was invited to the forum to present on the Guam Restoration of Watersheds project, or GROW, a collaboration started in 2016 between the UOG Sea Grant Program and the UOG Center for Island Sustainability to reduce land erosion and its effects on downstream ecosystems and coral reef habitats.

"The GROW presentation inspired researchers in Fiji and other islands to use some of the tools being tested in Guam, like sediment filter socks, seed ball dispersal, and seed broadcasting—us-

ing native plants—in eroded lands," she said.

Demeulenaere stressed that restoring the ecosystem will be the most cost-effective and sustainable solution for environmental issues in island communities.

The forum identified actions for policy dialog on planetary health. Another outcome was a compilation of case studies in Oceania to communicate research evidence and promote awareness of the environmental and human health issues in the region.

The forum also facilitated

collaboration and strengthened partnerships between the health and environmental sectors while encouraging active engagement of indigenous leaders in decision making.

"It is important for UOG to be part of the regional discussions on social, environmental, and economic impacts that put increased pressure on the region and its people," Demeulenaere said. "We all need to be active participants in the health of our region by bringing our issues and also our solutions to the table." (PR)



## Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2018 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

According to 1 CMC § 6424, all certified candidates must file a detailed "Campaign Statement of Account". This itemized financial statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by January 2, 2019, shall subject you to a fine of up to \$100 per day for each date the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on Commonwealth Election Commission's website at [www.votecnmi.gov.mp](http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp). Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is mandatory.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

#### Notary Service Schedule:

**Saipan:** Office of the Public Auditor  
Monday through Friday (Except 12/17/18 & 12/19/18)  
8:00am to 4:30pm

**Rota:** Northern Marianas College  
Monday, December 17, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

**Tinian:** Department of Commerce  
Wednesday, December 19, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

*This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.*

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. NMHC has made amendments to the previous QAP to include a capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on December 27, 2018, 10:00 a.m. at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft 2019 and 2020 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net).

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on December 27, 2018.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muña at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

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# Kili: \$10.1M for Marianas water projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will get another boost of \$10.1 million toward the goal of 24-hour water for all Saipan residents, Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday.

The new money to CUC

comes on top of the \$73 million in Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds that Sablan had already brought in for water and sewer projects since 2010.

"Super Typhoon Yutu was a setback," Sablan said. "In June, CUC reported that 96

percent of Saipan was receiving water around the clock, but we lost that level of service in the storm. "Now we have to rebuild and the \$10.1 million CUC is getting will help that recovery effort."

Congress increased Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water funding this year nationwide. As a result, the Marianas is getting \$3.8 million more

than in 2017.

It is also a big increase from the days when the Marianas had no representation in Congress and only received about \$1 million annually for water infrastructure. In his first year in office, Sablan worked to get the insular area set-asides for the water and sewer programs increased from 0.28 percent and 0.33 percent, respectively, to 1.5 percent for each.

Congress has kept the improved funding formulas in place ever since, although the decision is still made on an annual basis. Without the formula change CUC ratepayers would have had to pay for the \$73 million investment in the water system on their monthly bills.

Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water grant funds are administered by the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency. EPA also awarded \$2.1 million to the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. The grant will support BECQ's inspections, emergency responses, radon assessments, coral reef protection, monitoring of beaches and water quality, drinking water improvements, cleanups of

contaminated lands and polluted streams, and support for safe use of pesticides.

"As always, I want to thank our friends at EPA for the work they do to make sure all the money Congress appropriates for the Marianas is used effectively," said Sablan. "I also want to thank CUC." (PR)

## Annual fire chiefs' conference shortened

The annual Western Pacific Islands Association Fire Chief conference was shortened to just a day this year as a direct result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The Western Pacific Islands Association Fire Chief conference usually lasts longer but, because of the lack of accommodation, this year's conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan was shortened and lasted only a day this year, said Clyde Norita, CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner.

"Usually this conference lasts two to three days...but because of the time and lack of resources, like hotels and rooms...we limited the conference to just one day and we are just addressing the most critical information—technology in fire services," said

Norita yesterday.

This year's theme was Technology in Fire Services and how to use technology to leverage fire safety, health, and the welfare of firefighters across the Pacific.

"Fighting fire is the same over 200 years...but because of technology...we are able to fight fire smarter," he said.

One of the most critical pieces of technology discussed during the conference on Wednesday was the technologically innovative oxygen tanks, self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBA, and firefighter coats.

"For example, our SCBA...SCBAs are lighter now. The tank used to be metal and stainless steel but now it's a composite that makes it much lighter. Firefighter's coats and boots alone are

heavy, plus the tank and their SCBA and working in stressful conditions...you want to make sure that the technology is there to help make the suit lighter, make the tank lighter, make the SCBA lighter. ...These SCBAs are changing the way we fight fire and helps firefighters carry more equipment needed to fight fire," Norita said.

According to him, it's important for every fire chief that their firefighters are equipped with the most advanced equipment "and training because firefighters will go out and fight those fires...and as management we are here to provide the needed equipment and training..."

Present at Wednesday's conference were fire chiefs from Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Palau, CNMI, and more. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

### RELATED NEWS

■ EPA awards the CNMI \$12.2 million. **PAGE 17**



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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### EDITORIAL

## Time's salute to truth-telling during 'the War on Truth'

All journalists enjoy getting recognition for their work. But by nature and tradition, they'd much rather tell the story than be the story.

What motivates reporters, from Maryland to Myanmar, is not the desire for fame. It's the hunger to break news, explain the world and hold the powerful accountable. A savvy reporter, if asked theoretically to choose between writing a *Time* magazine cover story and appearing on the cover, would surely pick the former. Why would a journalist



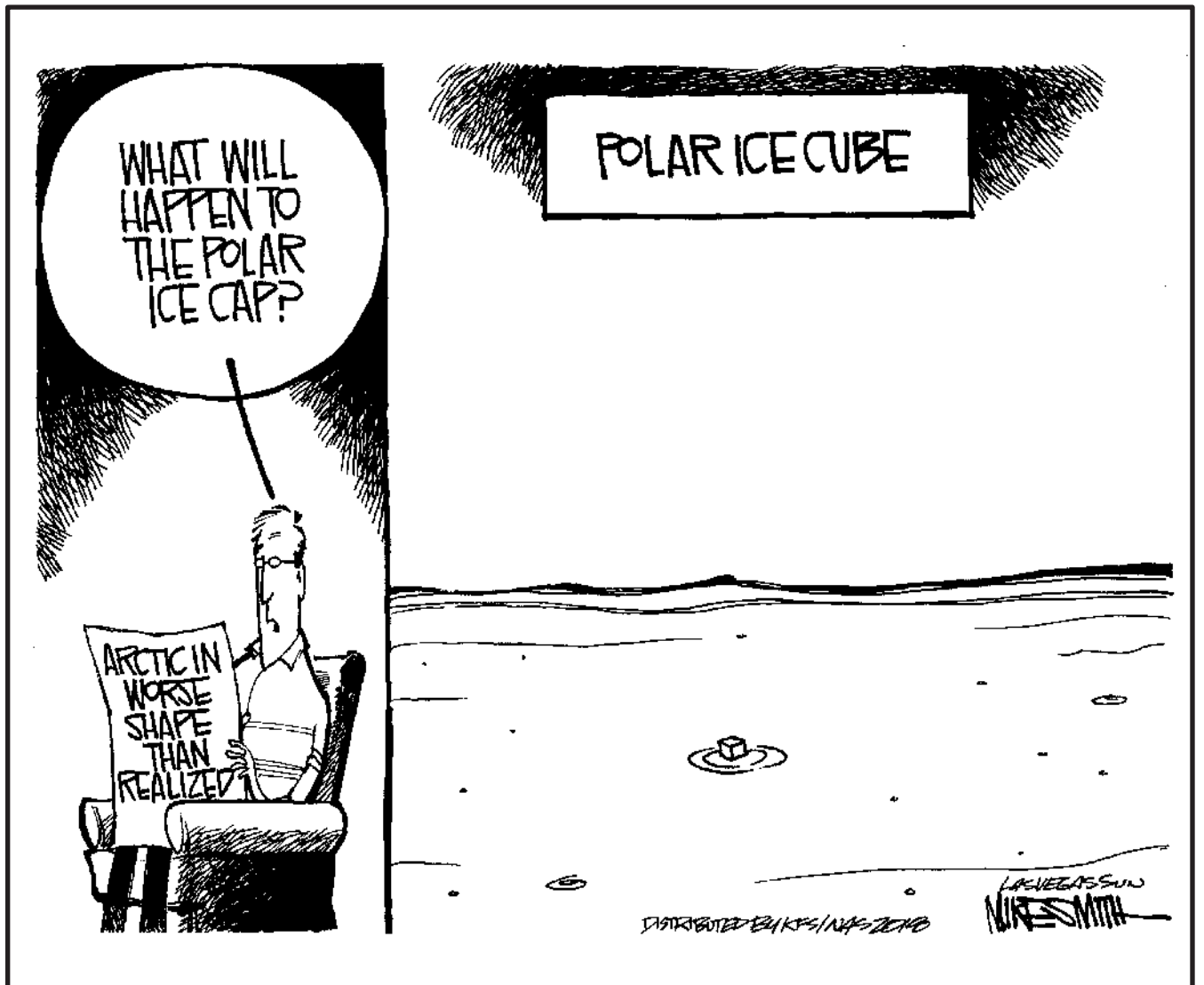
This combination photo provided by Time Magazine shows their four covers for the "Person of the Year," announced Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018. The covers show Jamal Khashoggi, top left, members of the Capital Gazette newspaper, of Annapolis, Md., top right, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, bottom left, and Maria Ressa.

AP

ever get that spotlight? More likely than not due to some kind of bad news.

Alas, it is so. *Time's* 2018 Person of the Year, revealed Tuesday, is a small group of intrepid journalists from around the world lauded in a cover story titled "The Guardians and the War on Truth." Six of the guardians are dead. Two are in jail in Myanmar. One faces charges in the Philippines.

Journalists in many countries without guaranteed press freedom must take risks to report news that is critical of the government. In America, where the Constitution provides protections, anger and disdain toward the news media permeate hyperpartisan discourse. President Donald Trump has

See *TIME* on Next Page

## Provoking the pronoun police

By **MONICA BURKE**  
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

No one could say Peter Vlaming didn't try. When a female student returned to West Point High School this year now identifying as a man, Vlaming, who had taught French for seven years at the school, found himself in a difficult position. How could he ensure the student felt comfortable in the classroom without violating his Christian belief that God created human beings male and female?

Vlaming went to great lengths to accommodate the student without violating his faith. He used the student's new name to avoid upsetting the student, but refrained from using pronouns altogether in the student's presence to avoid speaking against his beliefs.

"I'm happy to avoid female pronouns not to offend because I'm not here to provoke," Vlaming told the press, "but I can't refer to a female as a male, and a male as a female in good conscience and faith."

However, this wasn't enough to satisfy the student's family or the school board.

"I can't think of a worse way to treat a child than what was happening," said the principal, who had ordered the teacher to use the student's preferred pronouns.

The West Point school board then voted unanimously to fire Vlaming for refusing to comply with administrators' orders to use the student's preferred masculine pronouns.

Very soon, other Americans could be vulnerable to the same fate as Vlaming, simply for trying not to violate their belief that men and women are unchangeable biological realities. Sweeping gender-identity policies now threaten to silence debate over gender nationwide.

What is so shocking about Vlaming's case is that instead of pursuing a solution that would respect everyone—teacher and student alike—the school board refused to respect Vlaming's beliefs and terminated him.

This incident does not bode well for future conflicts over transgender policies. As more of these conflicts arise in schools, hospitals, shelters and businesses, America must allow its citizens to think about and debate these issues freely.

Unfortunately, government coercion as a weapon of the culture wars is now spreading across the professions.

First, there were cases in the wedding industry where the gov-

ernment tried to force people to violate their belief that marriage is between a man and a woman—florists, bakers, photographers, wedding venues, and so forth.

Then those lawsuits spread to even more industries—videography, web design, calligraphy studios, and public service.

Now, the government is beginning to penalize people who hold that there are two biological sexes. For example, a Catholic hospital was sued for refusing to remove a biological female's healthy uterus to pursue transition. Meanwhile, two parents lost custody of their teenage daughter for refusing to allow their child to take testosterone and identify as a boy.

This could be just the beginning. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi recently announced that the Equality Act will be a top Democratic priority in 2019. The bill would impose controversial transgender policies on the nation by elevating "gender identity" to protected status in federal anti-discrimination law.

This would have drastic implications for average Americans. It would open up sex-specific facilities like bathrooms, locker rooms and shelters to members of the opposite biological sex. It would allow biological males to compete on women's sports teams. It would force health care providers and insurance companies to pay for radical transgender therapies.

In brief, stories such as Vlaming's would become the new normal.

Coercion isn't the answer to current debates about gender identity. Americans must remain free to discuss these policies in a respectful manner—which is why the firing of Vlaming is so disturbing. Instead of allowing the parties involved to find a workable compromise, the school board not only picked sides, it silenced one side.

This is an extremely disturbing precedent.

Sadly, while Vlaming was willing to work to make the student a cherished member of the community, the school board was not willing to work to make the teacher a cherished member as well.

Speaking and acting according to one's conscience should not be a fireable offense. When authorities try to force people to act against their beliefs, it is a blatant abuse of power—one that can easily backfire when political power changes hands. That is why everyone should be concerned about these emerging challenges to freedom of conscience.

Now that Vlaming has lost his job, who could be next?

The honest answer is that someday, it may well be you.

Monica Burke is a researcher in the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org)).



# Power banks

One hot gift this season is the "power bank," an external battery that can power cell phones, and in some cases notebook computers, when there's no power available at the wall socket.

I recently went on a shopping expedition for power banks. I'll tell you what I encountered.

Power banks are rated in milliamp-hours (mAh; more on that below). Most seem to range in price from \$10 to \$160. A power bank isn't something you use and throw out, it's something that you recharge and keep around.

The power banks that I've seen all feature USB ports for output. For input (to recharge the power bank itself), the small and medium ones are charged via USB ports as well.

By contrast, the larger power banks, designed to charge notebook computers as well as cell phones, usually require AC power from a converter (in other words, grid power from the wall socket) to recharge themselves. As for output, in addition to USB ports, they'll have other flavors such as 20 volts DC or even 110 volts AC. As you might guess, these large models are the more expensive end of the spectrum.

In rough, guesstimate terms, a typical cell phone battery (at 6.5 watt-hours of capacity; an assumption that may or may not apply to your case) could theoretically be charged the following amount of times:

- Small, 2600 mAh power bank: 1.5 times
- Medium, 10000 mAh power bank: 6 times
- Large, 50000 mAh power bank: 28 times

As regards physical size, a small power bank can be as small as a roll of quarters. A medium one is, very roughly, the size of a smartphone, or perhaps two smartphones pancaked together. A large one can be as big as a hardcover book.

# Issues to ponder

Every quarter moon, a scheme concocted by politicians for personal enrichment pops up in the public domain.

The latest is to give governors and lieutenant governors more pay after leaving office, including retroactive pay. What's wrong with this scheme?

It instantly robs taxpayers of money they've contributed to improve the quality of the life in the islands, especially the family income.

With any decent depth of perception and vision, policymakers would withdraw personal aggrandizement in favor of helping the multitude rebuild following the total physical destruction of family homes. But their insatiable greed overlooks this very aspect of hardship in their people.

Moreover, isn't it true that some 15,000 of a total of 26,000 employees are still earning poverty income level? How could such blatant condition escape your nimble mind?

The measure deserves instant veto by the governor and we trust he'll step up to the plate to give taxpayers a break.

■ ■ ■

Appalling, though not surprising, how elected officials embrace self-enrichment after an election. What do you make of your average folks who are most capable of telling wrongful schemes? Do you take them for simpletons?

Have you extended any form of assistance, in-kind or monetary, to help displaced families rebuild the only family home? Shouldn't this family destruction be the sole focus of legislators, given its immediacy and urgency? Is your planned increase a real urgency or isn't it the destroyed homes of families you represent?

Such adolescent decision prompts the query: do you ever plan anything at all that makes sense? It seems you enter and exit disorientation as if a perennial hobby. Is this it or have you better explanations?

If cell phones are your only concern, I'd suggest starting as small and cheap as possible. You can then get familiar with the various factors at your leisure and adjust your sights from there. By contrast, if you want to drive a notebook computer, you'll want to do as much research as possible so you can avoid making an expensive mistake.

That's all I've really got to say about power banks. However, if you like to geek-out with numbers, then pull up a beach chair, fire up a cigarette, and let's get rolling.

For reasons that elude me, power banks, as noted, advertise their ratings in milliamp-hours (mAh). This is like selling milk by the foot. A more useful measurement is the watt-hour (Wh), which is sort of like a gallon of electric power. The math is easy: If you multiply one volt by one amp, you get one watt. Run something at one watt for one hour, and you've got a watt-hour. Also, while we're messing with terminology here, and as you might have already surmised, a milliamp is one 1000th of an amp.

Power banks usually run on 3.7 volt (well, 3.6 volts to 3.8 volts from what I've seen) battery packs, an assumption I used for the above charging estimates. Using 3.7 volts as a generic assumption, a small, 2600 mAh power bank will, therefore, hold about 9.6 watt-hours of juice; a 50000 mAh monster will hold 185 watt-hours.

If you're going to crunch numbers, it's worth noting that the battery pack within a power bank is stepping up its voltage for its output; going, for example, to 5 volts via the USB port (USB ports are a standard 5 volts). If you base your capacity calculations on the output voltage, instead of the voltage of the bank's underlying battery pack, you'll get messed-up results.

This threw me for a loop when I was crunching numbers for

How sad the wind our sails are torn! Thanks Rep. Ed Propst for calling this to the attention of innocent and hard-hit taxpayers.

■ ■ ■

We subscribe to health policy with certain insurance firm to cover health cost when we see primary physician or doctors at CHC. The insurance firm hopes you stay healthy so it retains its profit. It's a give-and-take situation!

But there comes a time when critical health issues force you to seek help at the Emergency Room at CHC. Interestingly, a staff from an insurance firm writes a note that I should go to the hospital during regular working hours. Nice try, sir! How about a simple composition on common sense relating to urgent health issues?

Mind you, do people have control over serious health issues, e.g., fatal heart attack or stroke? Are we even endowed with divine strength to dictate that fatal illnesses hit at our convenience? When afflicted, do they wait until daybreak to head to the hospital per your recommendation? Who enjoys being critically ill? No common sense up this alley, pal!

If there's an insurance commission, I'd be more than happy to provide you the name for immediate probing. I remember buying an insurance policy for a purpose. Nowhere is there included listening to insurance firm airheads!

■ ■ ■

We may have had occasion to review equality granted fellow citizens across the fruited plains. We look and compare the obvious denial of certain rights for citizens who come from territories. It includes voting in presidential elections.

The issue goes back to the work of the founding fathers some 240 years ago. They dealt with forming the union, not the emergence of territories and accompanying issues. How true, though, that it remains an equal protection issue. If it matters to you, the U.S. Supreme Court is the venue to re-

**By ED STEPHENS JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. At [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com).  
His column runs every Friday.



my first power bank. Although it did have the watt-hour specification stamped on the device (but not on the packaging), I wasn't able to figure out what was going on under the hood.

I decided to get a real expert on the case. I reached out to Isidor Buchmann, CEO of

Cadex Electronics Inc. in Canada. Cadex is also behind the highly-informative website [BatteryUniversity.com](http://BatteryUniversity.com).

Of my power bank, Mr. Buchmann noted, "Your power bank likely includes a charger that takes a 5V supply and provides a 5V conditioned output by a buck-boost circuit." And that's certainly the case here. Charging power goes into the power bank through the input USB port at 5 volts, is reduced to charge the battery in the power bank (a battery rated at 3.6 volts, not 3.7 volts, in this particular case; hey, nothing is ever simple), and then the output of that battery is pushed back up to 5 volts for the output USB port. That's pretty fancy footwork for something that's the size of a roll of quarters.

My capacity and charging estimates are just simple math that doesn't take into account the rigors of real-world conditions. The actual performance we get out of a power bank will be less than these idealized estimates. How much less? I have no idea.

On that note, I'm still testing things to see what happens. Hey, it's the holidays: Let the sparks fly!

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



solve this matter with finality.

■ ■ ■

Public employees are still ahead in income by three dollars. Yet, they are the recipients of more tax breaks and holidays than their more productive counterparts in private industries.

A good way to help them is simply return their entire income tax for this year so they, too, could enjoy the gifts of the holiday season. After all, they only get \$.50 in increase annually from their employers. Understood. But this group definitely deserves the break, now.

■ ■ ■

**Potion:** Some politicians use potion (local medicine) to guard their career. Fine! But why would you still doubt your people's vote of confidence?

You should check me out when you need some help. I've got tons of strange leaves to pound in case you need something bitter in your mouth. And I'll do it for free too! It heals anything if you know how to employ mind over matter.

Be wary, though, that eventually whatever it is you're using would backfire on you big time. Why resort to the evils of paranormal on normal human events? It's senseless, no matter how you splice, dice or slice it!

## TIME

From Page 14

deemed pesky reporter types to be enemies of the people. Such inflammatory rhetoric, if taken to an extreme here or abroad, is dangerous.

Yet as much as *Time's* story is focused on tragedy and injustice, it's also a defiant, affirming tale that shows reporters are tenacious souls. Their commitment to news is an occupational trait and occupational hazard. Journalists chase the truth the way first responders chase fires. A few hours after the shooting massacre at Maryland's *Capital Gazette* last June in which five people were killed, colleague Chase Cook, a reporter, declared in a tweet: "I can tell you this: We are putting out a damn paper tomorrow." Journalists in any country would recognize that call to arms. And yes, the *Gazette* did publish the next morning.

Time gave the staff of the *Gazette* its Person of the Year honor along with murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi; Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, who faces tax fraud charges after her aggressive reporting on the government; and Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who were imprisoned in Myanmar after reporting on alleged genocide against the Rohingya Muslims. The inclusion of the *Gazette* staff is personal to us because it's a sister publication to the *Chicago Tribune*. The five *Gazette* employees killed by a gunman who allegedly held a grudge against the newspaper were Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Rebecca Smith and John McNamara.

Part of *Time's* purpose in honoring journalists is to highlight the jarring irony of assaults on the truth in the age of information: "This ought to be a time when democracy leaps forward, an informed citizenry being essential to self-government. Instead it's in retreat." A true though rather dour assessment of the digital

age. Social media can be a great equalizer between the public and the powerful. Tweets from the streets can galvanize opposition to a dictator overnight. But the dictatorial don't give up without fighting back, and the internet doesn't take sides. Facebook and the like are merely tools available to all, for better and worse, in pursuit of facts or fictions.






What can make a difference, *Time* submits, is the work of journalists dedicated to fair, diligently reported news and analysis. For journalists to be recognized, and remembered, is an honor. Many people in our profession were pleased to get the support, humbled by a moment in the limelight. Employees of our parent company, Tribune Publishing, paused Tuesday to reflect anew on the loss of our *Gazette* colleagues.

And then we all went back to work.

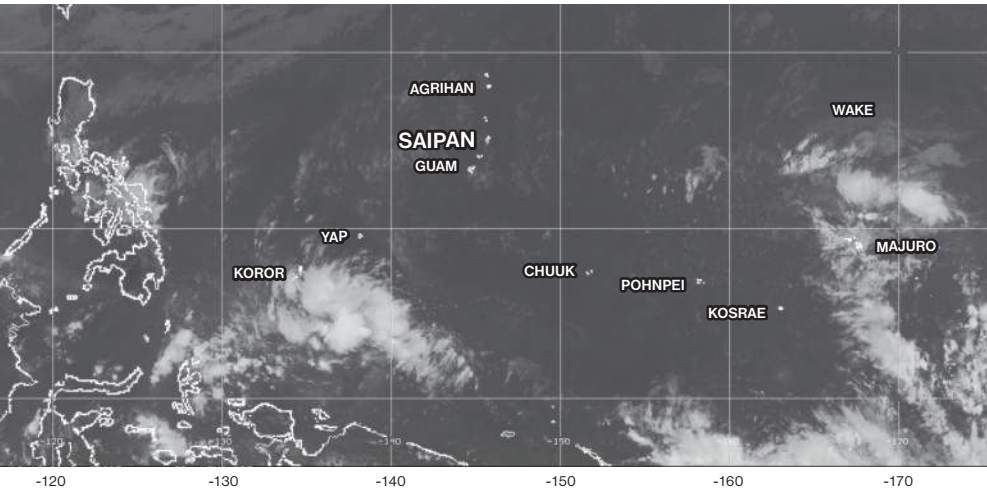


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models show a dry weather pattern over the Marianas with only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers through Friday. The circulation known as 94W is now over the Marshall Islands. Earlier in the week a few of the models had tried to develop this circulation...formerly known as 99C... into a tropical cyclone. Yesterday the models had come into an agreement that the circulation would remain weak. The models still agree on keeping it weak. As it moves westward, GFS and ECMWF keep the circulation well south of the Marianas. A surface trough extends north of the circulation which will eventually pass over the Marianas sometime this weekend. The ICON model pushes a surface trough over the Marianas Sunday. CMC and NAGEM keep it as a weak circulation passing either over the Marianas or just south of it. While the UKMET only goes out to Friday. It shows the circulation well south of 10N with a surface trough extending north of it. There is a large area of plus 80 percent 700 mb RH associated with the trough. Progressing this over the Marianas would equal at least cloudy conditions through the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	70° / 61°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	37° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	72° / 63°	
Honolulu	Sunny	80° / 71°	
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 49°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	75° / 57°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 70°	
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 34°	
Paris	Sunny	36° / 25°	
Busan	Sunny	46° / 34°	
Rome	Showers	57° / 46°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	60° / 45°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 47°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	46° / 27°	
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Rain	51° / 48°	



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:58 AM	LOW TIDE	0.14	
1:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	
7:39 PM	LOW TIDE	1.09	
11:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.36	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:37 AM	11:32 PM	-
Saturday	12:16 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:20 AM	12:54 PM
Monday	-	1:09 AM	1:32 PM
Tuesday	-	1:58 AM	2:12 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended</b>			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>				<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>				<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b>				<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b>			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b>				<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27</b>				<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b>				<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b>			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Tinian DRC closing but help is still available

The Disaster Recovery Center on Tinian will close today, Dec. 14, 2018, at 6pm, but help will still be available for disaster survivors impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. After the DRC ceases oper-

## EPA awards the CNMI \$12.2 million

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$2.1 million to the CNMI’s Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to strengthen its capacity to protect human health and the environment.

EPA has also awarded \$10.1 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements.

“The CNMI government has been a great partner in environmental protection,” said EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Mike Stoker. “We are pleased to support both BECQ and CUC programs that are committed to achieving a better environment for all the residents of CNMI.”

BECQ uses EPA funding to support inspections, emergency responses, radon assessments, coral reef protection, monitoring of beaches and water quality, drinking water improvements, cleanups of

contaminated lands and polluted streams, and support for safe use of pesticides.

“The [BECQ] through its Division of Environmental Quality has developed a strong partnership with the U.S. EPA in the development and implementation of environmental programs that aims to protect public health and the environment of the CNMI,” said BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera. “The continued funding support and technical assistance from the EPA has been pivotal in the enhancement of DEQ’s environmental programs and the capacity building trainings that have broaden the capability DEQ’s personnel in all areas of environmental protection.”

EPA’s award of Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Infrastructure Funds to CUC will support projects to increase 24-hour drinking water service to customers, enhance

drinking water quality, prevent water pollution, and replace water supply lines. The funds also support improvements to island-wide sewer pump stations, wastewater treatment plants, and sewer system lines.

“The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI in general are very grateful for the continued support by the EPA in providing needed funding and technical expertise to assist CUC in developing the necessary water and wastewater infrastructure required for our growing communities,” said CUC executive director Gary Camacho.

The EPA’s Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) administers and enforces federal environmental laws in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 tribal nations—home to more than 50 million people. For more information on Region 9’s Pacific Islands Program visit <https://www.epa.gov>. (PR)

ations, survivors whose homes or businesses affected by the typhoons can still get updates about applications, learn about the appeals process, or check the status of their applications by logging in to their account at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. The toll-free numbers are open daily.

The Small Business Administration will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the same site.

The Disaster Recovery Center on Saipan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will remain open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 6pm; and on Saturday, from 10am to 4pm. It will be closed on Sunday.

Effective Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, the Tinian SBA DLOC will be open at the Tinian Department of Commerce, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 6pm. It will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.

The SBA Business Recovery Center on Saipan remains open at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (former Nauru building) Mondays to Fridays, from 8am to 4pm; and on Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm. It is closed on Sundays. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: RFP19-DOF-002**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 11, 2019 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

**“GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES  
AND RETIREES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”**

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER 10, 2018 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, BUILDING NO. 1302, ASCENCION DRIVE.

**ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE TO MS. LARRISA C. LARSON, SECRETARY OF FINANCE, TO (670) 664-1115 **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 04, 2019.**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON  
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the Commonwealth Development Authority (“CDA”) Conference Room, First Floor, CDA Building, San Jose Village (Oleai), Saipan. Public attendance is welcome. The order of business of the Board, unless changed by the majority vote of its members, shall be as follows:

**AGENDA\***

**I. Preliminary Matters**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

**II. Election of Officers**

**III. Adoption of Agenda**

**B. Adoption of Minutes**

1. July 26, 2018 Annual Board Meeting

2. November 28-29, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

**IV. Correspondence**

**V. Public Comments\***

**VI. Review of Contracts**

**VII. Management Reports**

A. Executive Director’s Report

B. Acting Chief Financial Officer’s Report

C. Legal Counsel’s Report

**VIII. Old Business**

A. CUC-CPA Settlement Agreement

B. CUC-CHCC Intergovernmental Net Metering Cooperative Agreement

C. Employees’ Survey

**IX. New Business**

A. Quarterly Board Meetings

B. Revised Telesource Change Order No. 5

**X. Executive Session\*\*\***

**XI. Adjournment**

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

\*\* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

**P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp)  
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)*

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Aubrey M. Hocog, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2017 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 17, 2018. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2018. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

Aubrey M. Hocog  
Chairwoman of the Board

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

**Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)**

**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-002-19  
Request for Proposals  
for:  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier’s checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

**Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)**

**Tinian International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-003-19  
Request for Proposals  
for:  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier’s checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

**Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)**

**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-004-19  
Request for Proposals  
for:  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier’s checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



Business

Canada says entrepreneur feared detained in China

**TORONTO (AP)**—A second Canadian man is feared detained in China in what appears to be retaliation for Canada’s arrest of a top executive of telecommunications giant Huawei. The possible arrest raises the stakes in an international dispute that threatens relations.

Canada’s Global Affairs department on Wednesday said Michael Spavor, an entrepreneur who is one of the only Westerners to have met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, had gone missing in China. Spavor’s disappearance follows China’s detention of a former Canadian diplomat in Beijing earlier this week.

“We have been unable to make contact (with Spavor) since he let us know he was being questioned by Chinese authorities,” Global Affairs spokesman Guillaume Bérubé said. “We are working very hard to ascertain his whereabouts and we continue to raise this with the Chinese government.”

Spavor is a fluent Korean



speaker with longstanding ties to the North through his company, Paektu Cultural Exchange. He was instrumental in bringing NBA player Dennis Rodman to Pyongyang in 2013 and has organized a number of tours and joint cultural projects with the North since then. His disappearance

sparked immediate concern in the circle of people who travel to North Korea. Acquaintances said he was due in Seoul on Monday, but never showed up.

Canada’s announcement came hours after Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said she was worried another citi-

zen had been detained in China following Monday’s arrest of former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig in Beijing.

At the root of the dispute is Canada’s recent arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese tele-

**AP**

In this Dec. 19, 2013, file photo, Michael Spavor, center, an entrepreneur, is seen with former NBA star Dennis Rodman, left, on the arrival at the capital airport for a flight to North Korea, in Beijing, China.

communications giant Huawei, for possible extradition to the United States.

A Canadian court on Tuesday released Meng on bail, confining her to Vancouver and its suburbs while she awaits possible extradition. The U.S. accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to do business with Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The detention of Kovrig and possible detention of Spavor reflect an increasingly bold approach to international disputes under President Xi Jinping, who has overseen a vast expansion of China’s diplomatic, military and economic power. China has often retaliated against foreign gov-

ernments and corporations in diplomatic disputes, but rarely by holding foreign nationals.

The United States and China have taken pains this week to emphasize that their trade talks are entirely separate from the U.S. case against the top Chinese technology executive. But with a few words, President Donald Trump obliterated the distinction on Tuesday, saying he’d waded into the case if it would help produce a trade agreement with China.

“If I think it’s good for what will be certainly the largest trade deal ever made—which is a very important thing—what’s good for national security—I would certainly intervene if I thought it was necessary,” Trump told Reuters in an interview.

The comment suggests Meng could be a political pawn in negotiations and makes things more awkward for Canada, which arrested her on America’s behalf during a Dec. 1 layover at the Vancouver airport.

Arrest of Nissan star Ghosn raises speculation over coup

**TOKYO (AP)**—The surprise arrest of Nissan’s former chairman on charges of falsifying financial reports is providing a window into possible corporate intrigue at the Japanese automaker.

Japanese media and some analysts have raised the possibility that the charges against Carlos Ghosn were engineered to sideline him and give Nissan an excuse to end a lopsided alliance with French automaker Renault SA.

“What is fascinating about this story is the politics of it,” said Egor Matveyev, an assistant professor of finance at the MIT Sloan School of Management. “It certainly appears that it wants more power and control within the alliance. This whole situation may give Nissan the opportunity to reset, and to put all the blame on Renault and Ghosn.”

Ghosn’s absence while he is held for questioning gives Nissan’s side time to maneuver for more power, he said.

Renault dispatched Ghosn to Nissan in 1999 to lead a

spectacular turnaround and owns 43 percent of Nissan Motor Co., while Nissan owns 15 percent of Renault with no voting rights. Now, Nissan is more profitable than Renault. Talk of a merger between the two companies was raising resistance in Japan, where sentiments seem to be running in exactly the other direction.

Nissan already feels it’s more than paid back what it “once owed” Renault, while Renault doesn’t want to lose “the golden egg” that is Nissan, said Etsuo Abe, a business management expert at Tokyo’s Meiji University.

“But when things get this messy, the only way out is divorce,” he said.

Long simmering dissent within Nissan’s Japanese ranks is the backdrop to the Nov. 19 arrest of Ghosn and an American executive, Greg Kelly, on suspicion of falsifying financial reports.

“Ghosn shock” and “Just like a coup,” shouted headlines in both mainstream media and tabloids.

As chairman at Nissan and chief executive of Renault as well as the alliance, Ghosn answered to a board headed by himself, holding key roles in determining pay packages and other decisions. Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa, who became co-CEO with Ghosn in 2016 and then sole chief last year, says the problems stemmed from his boss having too much power.

In response to a reporter’s question he denied the shake-up was a coup, but called Ghosn and Kelly the “masterminds.”

It’s unclear if Saikawa will be tapped to replace Ghosn as chairman following his dismissal last month. Whether an executive from Renault or Nissan gets the job may signal where the Yokohama-based maker of the Leaf electric car and Infiniti luxury models is headed in the short run.

A source close to Ghosn and his family told The Associated Press Ghosn was stunned and has been asserting his innocence.

China suspected in huge Marriott data breach, official says

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Investigators believe hackers working on behalf of China’s main intelligence agency are responsible for a massive data breach involving the theft of personal information from as many as 500 million guests of the Marriott hotel chain, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Investigators suspect the hackers were working on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of State Security, an official briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said investigators were particularly concerned about the data breach in part because Marriott is frequently used by the military and government agencies.

Marriott, which announced the data breach on Nov. 30, has not disclosed what it knows about the source of the hack, which included the theft of credit card and passport numbers over four years

from guests who stayed at hotels previously operated by Starwood.

Marriott acquired Starwood, which includes such brands as Sheraton, W Hotels and St. Regis, in 2016.

“Our primary objectives in this investigation are figuring out what occurred and how we can best help our guests,” Marriott spokeswoman Connie Kim said. “We have no information about the cause of this incident, and we have not speculated about the identity of the attacker.”

The revelation of suspected involvement by China comes amid heightened tension with the U.S. over trade; the arrest in Canada on an American warrant of a top executive of Chinese electronics giant Huawei; and alarm among law enforcement officials about Chinese efforts to steal technology to bolster its growing economy.

President Donald Trump said he would get involved in the Huawei case if it would help produce a trade agreement with China, telling Re-

uters in an interview Tuesday that he would “intervene if I thought it was necessary.”

Officials from the Justice Department, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday that China is working to steal trade secrets and intellectual property from U.S. companies in order to harm America’s economy and further its own development.

Chinese espionage efforts have become “the most severe counterintelligence threat facing our country today,” Bill Priestap, the assistant director of the FBI’s counterintelligence division, told the committee. “Every rock we turn over, every time we looked for it, it’s not only there, it’s worse than we anticipated.”

Priestap said federal officials have been trying to convey the extent of the threat to business leaders and others in government. “The bottom line is they will do anything they can to achieve their aims,” he said.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

24,527.27

+157.03

+0.64%

S&P

2,651.07

+14.29

+0.54%

NASDAQ

7,098.31

+66.48

+0.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3833
British Pound	0.7926
Canadian Dollar	1.3353
Chinese Yuan	6.7513
Euro	0.8799

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8101
Indian Rupee	70.9283
Japanese Yen	113.4170
Malaysian Ringgit	4.1373
New Zealand Dollar	1.4570
Philippine Peso	51.5985

Russian Ruble	66.3448
Singapore Dollar	1.3712
South Korean Won	1103.75
Swiss Franc	0.9938
Taiwan Dollar	30.2883
Thailand Baht	32.6205



# Nation

## ‘Dirty deeds’: Ex-Trump lawyer Cohen gets 3 years in prison

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s one-time fixer, was sentenced Wednesday to three years in prison for crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal his boss’ alleged sexual affairs, telling a judge that he agreed time and again to cover up Trump’s “dirty deeds” out of “blind loyalty.”

Separately, the legal and political peril surrounding Trump appeared to deepen when prosecutors announced that another major piece of the investigation had fallen into place: The parent company of the National Enquirer acknowledged dispensing some of the hush money in concert with the Trump campaign to fend off a scandal that could have damaged his bid for the White House.

Cohen, 52, shook his head slightly and closed his eyes as a judge pronounced his sentence for evading \$1.4 million in taxes, lying about Trump’s business dealings in Russia and violating campaign-finance laws in buying the silence of porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy centerfold Karen McDougal, who claimed they had sex with the candidate. Cohen and federal prosecutors have



Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, leaves federal court after his sentencing in New York, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018. AP

said the payments were made at Trump’s direction to influence the election.

“Time and time again, I felt it was my duty to cover up his dirty deeds rather than to listen

to my own inner voice and my moral compass,” said a choked-up Cohen, a lawyer who once boasted he would “take a bullet” for Trump. “My weakness can be charac-

terized as a blind loyalty to Donald Trump, and I was weak for not having the strength to question and to refuse his demands.”

The twin developments rep-

resented a double dose of bad news for the president, who ignored reporters’ questions about Cohen during an appearance at the White House later in the day.

Cohen is the first and, so far, only member of Trump’s circle during two years of investigations to go into open court and implicate him in a crime, though whether a president can be prosecuted under the Constitution is an open question.

In a possible sign of further trouble for the president, Cohen said he will continue cooperating with prosecutors, and one of his legal advisers said Cohen is also prepared to tell “all he knows” to Congress if asked.

At the sentencing, defense attorney Guy Petrillo pleaded for leniency for Cohen, saying, “He came forward to offer evidence against the most powerful person in our country.”

U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III said the defendant deserved modest credit, but his assistance “does not wipe the slate clean.”

“Somewhere along the way Mr. Cohen appears to have lost his moral compass,” the judge said.

The judge also ordered Cohen to pay \$1.39 million in restitution to the IRS, forfeit \$500,000 and pay \$100,000 in fines. He was ordered to report to prison March 6 and left court without comment.

## Insurance claims at \$9 billion from California fires

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Insurance claims from last month’s California wildfires already are at \$9 billion and expected to increase, the state’s insurance commissioner announced Wednesday.

About \$7 billion in claims are from the Camp Fire that destroyed the Northern California city of Paradise and killed at least 86 people, making it the deadliest U.S. wildfire in at least a century. The rest is from the Woolsey and Hill fires in Southern California.

Collectively, the fires destroyed or damaged more than 20,000 structures, with the vast majority in and around Paradise. On Tuesday, state and federal authorities estimated it will cost at least \$3 billion just to clear debris.

“As the claims get perfected, as individuals get access to their former homes and neighborhoods, as they dialogue with their insurance companies and share more information about the scope of their loss, we expect these numbers to rise,” Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones said of the \$9 billion estimate.

There are more than 28,000 claims for residential personal

property, nearly 2,000 from commercial property and 9,400 in auto and other claims for the fires.

That’s well above the number of claims filed following a series of fires that tore through Northern California’s wine country last year. Losses from those fires were initially pegged at \$3.3 billion but eventually grew to \$10 billion.

While the Camp Fire destroyed about double the number of structures as the 2017 fires, home values in Butte County are far lower than those in Sonoma County. That’s part of the reason total claims may seem low compared to the 2017 figures, Jones said. Median home values in Sonoma County are more than double those in Butte.

Jones advised home owners to be cautious of “fraudsters and scam artists” trying to take advantage of vulnerable communities.

He also said it’s time for California to start rethinking how and if it builds in fire-prone areas. Ken Pimlott, outgoing director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told The Associated Press this week the state

should consider banning construction in vulnerable areas.

Jones said local governments may not be fully considering the long-term impacts of building in areas at high risk of fire, floods and rising sea levels.

“That’s going to be a hard conversation. Everybody likes to build new, people obviously want to rebuild their communities,” he said. “We’re in a new era where these risks are so bad I think we’ve really got to take a look at how we’re making these decisions.”

Authorities are still determining what caused the fire.

Pacific Gas & Electric told regulators that a high-voltage power line malfunctioned at the time and spot that investigators believe the fire started on Nov. 8.

The San Francisco-based utility told the California Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday that several miles away workers found a fallen power pole and equipment with bullet holes.

A number of fire victims have filed lawsuits alleging that PG&E’s equipment started the fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed at least 86 people.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Congress OKs bill to allow killing sea lions to help salmon

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Congress has agreed to make it easier to kill sea lions threatening fragile runs of salmon in the Northwest. Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that a bill approved by the House Tuesday changes the Marine Mammal Protection Act to lift some of the restrictions on killing sea lions to protect salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries. The measure had previously passed the Senate. Wildlife managers say sea lion populations have grown so large that they no longer need all the protections that were put in place for them in 1972. The measure would usher in a more streamlined process for Washington, Idaho, Oregon and several Pacific Northwest tribes to capture and euthanize sea lions. Sea lions deemed to be a problem are captured and euthanized. Supporters, including the governors of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, fishing groups and tribes, have said the bill will give wildlife managers greater flexibility in controlling California sea lions that dramatically increased from about 30,000 in the 1960s to about 300,000 following enactment of the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

### Federal jury convicts 5 in Thai sex trafficking trial

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Five people on trial for an alleged ring that prosecutors said sold Thai women for sex in the U.S. were convicted Wednesday on sex trafficking charges. A federal jury in Minnesota found all five guilty of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and other charges, the Star Tribune reported. Jurors returned their verdict just a day after

receiving the case. The defendants were Michael Morris, 65, of Seal Beach, California; Pawinee Unpradit, 46, of Dallas; Saowapha Thinram, 44, of Hutto, Texas; Thoucharin Ruttanamongkongul, 35, of Chicago; and Waralee Wanless, 39, of Colony, Texas. Prosecutors alleged during the six-week trial that the defendants, along with 34 co-conspirators, ran a sex trafficking operation that lasted more than a decade and crossed borders. Government attorneys called it a case of “modern day sex slavery,” with Thai women forced to have sex with multiple men daily to pay off “bondage debts” owed to traffickers for help coming to the U.S. Some victims testified during the trial.

### Pilot seriously injured after military jet crash off Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii Air National Guard civilian contractor was in serious condition Wednesday after his plane crashed off the coast of Honolulu during a military exercise, authorities said. The pilot of the Hawker Hunter jet ejected safely from the plane, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam said in a statement. He was initially rescued by a private sailboat and then transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard. Honolulu Emergency Services spokesman Dustin Malama said the 47-year-old appeared to have traumatic injuries and was taken to a hospital. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said a Hawker Hunter jet went down in the ocean around 2:25 p.m. after taking off from Honolulu’s airport. The pilot was rescued about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) south of Oahu near Honolulu’s Sand Island, the U.S. Coast Guard said.



# Asia

## Philippine Congress votes to extend martial law in south

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine Congress on Wednesday approved a request by the president to extend martial law in the country's volatile south by a year due to continuing threats by Islamic State group-linked militants and communist insurgents.

An overwhelming majority in the Senate and House of Representatives voted to extend martial rule, which expires at the end of the month, by another year in southern Mindanao region, scene of decades-long Muslim and communist rebellions in the large-

ly Roman Catholic nation.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed the southern region under martial law after hundreds of Islamic State group-linked militants attacked the Islamic city of Marawi on May 23, 2017, in the worst security crisis he has faced. Troops quelled the siege after five months but officials say surviving militants continue to recruit new fighters and plot bombings and other attacks.

"Now more than ever, we cannot afford to show our enemies a moment of weakness in our resolve to defeat them," Executive Secretary Salvador

Medialdea told the joint session of Congress.

He warned that if Muslim militants and communist insurgents are allowed to regroup, "this government will not be able to function fully, basic services to the people will continuously be hindered, and the safety of the general public will remain to be under constant threat."

Muslim militants, backed by foreign extremists, are fighting to turn the Philippines into a province of a so-called Muslim caliphate, while other armed groups aim to establish a separate Muslim homeland,

Medialdea said.

Opponents argue that extending martial law is unconstitutional because it is an "extreme measure" that can only be imposed when an actual rebellion against the government exists. They say the move could be a prelude for Duterte to declare martial law throughout the Philippines.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman said the government's repeated requests for extensions of martial law show the military and police have failed to achieve their objectives under martial rule.

"I think this undue prolon-

gation of martial law in Mindanao would amount to perpetuity," Lagman said.

Other opposition lawmakers argued that government forces could fight insurgents in remote rural areas and allow economic growth without martial law.

At least 143 suspected militants have been arrested and charged with rebellion since martial rule was imposed across the south, where a number of extremist groups, including the brutal Abu Sayyaf group which still has more than 400 fighters, continue to pose threats, military officials said.

Left-wing lawmakers questioned a military claim that not one case of human rights violations has occurred under martial law in the south. Outside the House, activists staged a noisy protest, expressing fears that left-wing groups and human rights defenders will be targeted under martial law.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana pledged that the military will protect "the democratic way of life of our people, with full respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and the primacy of the rule of law."

Filipinos remain hypersensitive to threats to democracy and civil liberties after they ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a 1986 "people power" revolt that became a harbinger of change in authoritarian regimes worldwide. Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines in 1972 in a period marked by massive hu-

man rights abuses.

Concerns over Duterte's martial law have been sparked in part by his perceived authoritarian bent and the killings of thousands of suspects in a crackdown on illegal drugs that he launched after taking office in 2016.

### Official: N. Korea leader unlikely to visit Seoul 'this month

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's return visit to Seoul appears unlikely to take place this month, a senior South Korean official said.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in had agreed on Kim's visit to Seoul "in the near future" following their September summit in Pyongyang. Moon later said that Kim would come "within this year."

Kim's possible trip to Seoul has been the focus of media attention in South Korea in the past two weeks.

The presidential Blue House on Thursday quoted senior presidential adviser Yoon Young-chan as saying in a text message to local reporters on Wednesday that Kim's visit this year was "difficult."

Yoon said Kim's trip early next year was still possible.

Experts say Kim is reluctant to come because of stalled nuclear negotiations with the United States and worries about security arrangements in the South.

If Kim does visit Seoul, he will become the first North Korean leader to do so since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. The Koreans are divided by the world's most heavily fortified border, and about 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea to deter potential aggression from North Korea.

Kim and Moon have taken a series of steps to reduce military tensions and boost ties this year. But they find it difficult to launch economic cooperation projects as the United States says it will maintain international sanctions on the North until it completes its nuclear disarmament.

The negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea have produced no major breakthrough since Kim's summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore in June.



People display placards during a rally at the Philippine Senate to mark the U.N. Declaration of International Human Rights Day Monday, Dec. 10, 2018 in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila, Philippines.

## Korean border troops verify removal of each other's posts

**INSIDE THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE** (AP)—Dozens of North and South Korean soldiers crossed over the world's most heavily armed border Wednesday as they inspected the sites of their rival's front-line guard posts to verify they'd been removed, part of inter-Korean engagement efforts that come amid stalled U.S.-North Korea nuclear disarmament talks.

Soldiers from the two Koreas exchanged cigarettes and chatted as they inspected the dismantlement or disarmament of 22 guard posts—11 from each country—inside the Demilitarized Zone that forms their 248-kilometer (155-mile)-long, 4-kilometer (2.5-mile)-wide border.

The inspections Wednesday were mostly symbolic—the

removals will leave South Korea with about 50 other DMZ posts and North Korea with 150, according to defense experts in South Korea—but they mark an extraordinary change in ties from last year, when North Korea tested a series of increasingly powerful weapons and threatened Seoul and Washington with war.

A small group of journalists was allowed to enter the zone to watch a South Korean team leave for a North Korean guard post Wednesday morning and a North Korean team come to a South Korean guard post later in the day.

Seven helmeted South Korean soldiers wearing backpacks, one carrying a camera and another a camcorder, approached the line separating the northern and southern

sides of the DMZ. North Korean troops then walked in a row down a hill to meet them. The soldiers from the rival Koreas exchanged handshakes before moving up the hill together to go to the dismantled North Korean guard post.

Other groups of South Korean soldiers simultaneously visited 10 other North Korean guard posts. They inspected whether the guard posts and any underground structures have been completely dismantled and whether all troops, weapons and other equipment have been withdrawn, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

Hours later, seven North Korean soldiers clad in olive-green uniforms crossed the same borderline and were then escorted by South Korean

troops to the concrete and steel debris of a destroyed South Korean post. North Korean teams also visited 10 other South Korean sites.

South Korea's liberal president, Moon Jae-in, the driving force behind the current engagement effort, watched parts of the verification broadcast live at an underground bunker in Seoul. Moon called the work "a new milestone" in inter-Korean history that was "unimaginable in the past," according to his office.

North Korean soldiers allowed South Korean soldiers to use stethoscope-like equipment to inspect whether there were any underground tunnels below the site, South Korean presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

The Demilitarized Zone

was originally created as a buffer between the countries at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But contrary to its name, the DMZ has become the world's most heavily fortified frontier after the rival Koreas planted an estimated 2 million mines, deployed combat troops and heavy weapons and set up layers of barbed wire fences.

When the leaders of the Koreas met in Pyongyang in September, they agreed to lower military tensions along their border, including the withdrawal of some DMZ guard posts, halting live-fire exercises near the border, demilitarizing their shared border village of Panmunjom and removing mines at a DMZ area to launch joint searches for Korean War dead.



# World

## UK's Theresa May: Quiet, steely vicar's daughter

**LONDON (AP)**—She is a quiet, determined vicar's daughter who rose to the heights of British political power by outmaneuvering better known, more outspoken men.

The favorites in a 2016 Conservative Party leadership competition were Boris Johnson and Michael Gove. The winner was Theresa May, who became prime minister on a difficult mission to deliver Brexit.

May, 62, became prime minister after Britain's shock June 2016 vote to leave the EU toppled Prime Minister David Cameron, who had called the referendum and then argued for remaining in the bloc in a bid to squelch a long-running party squabble. And she has spent her entire premiership trying to deliver on the voters' decision.

Before the referendum, May had backed remaining in the EU bloc, but she has become one of the staunchest advo-



**AP**  
Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street to attend the weekly Prime Ministers' Questions session, at parliament in London, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018.

softer Brexit in which Britain remains in the EU's single market and customs union.

May vowed that she would "see this through" and secure Parliament's backing for her deal. She came close to losing it all on Wednesday after angry Conservative lawmakers called for a no-confidence vote in Parliament. But she won it, 200 votes to 117.

Few doubt her fortitude and commitment to an idea of public service instilled in her upbringing as the daughter of an Anglican vicar.

May was first elected to Parliament in 1997, and soon established a reputation for unflashy competence and a knack for vanquishing her rivals.

She served for six years in the notoriously thankless job of home secretary, responsible for borders, immigration and law and order. In 2016 she beat flashier and better-known politicians, including flamboyant Brexit-backer Johnson, to the post of prime minister.

But her fabled stubbornness alone may not be enough.

### Turkey vows to take on US-backed Kurdish militia in Syria

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)**—Turkey will launch a new military operation against U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria "within a few days," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday, a move likely to further strain ties between NATO allies Turkey and the United States.

In recent months, Turkey has shelled Kurdish positions across the border in Syria, east of the Euphrates River, and has threatened to drive out the Syrian Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG.

The YPG is the main component of a Kurdish-led militia in Syria that rolled back the Islamic State group with the help of the U.S.-led coalition. Ankara views YPG fighters as terrorists because of their links to the Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey. U.S. troops are deployed with the Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria, in part to prevent clashes with Turkey.

"We will begin our operation to rescue the east of the Euphrates from the separatist organization within a few days," Erdogan said. "Our target is not the American soldiers, it is the terror organizations that are active in the region."

He called on the U.S. not to allow "deep" disagreements over Syria policy to

impede future cooperation between the two countries.

Turkey has been incensed by American support for the Kurdish-led forces. More recently, it has been frustrated by delays in the implementation of an agreement that was reached between Washington and Ankara that would effectively push the Kurdish militia out of the key northern Syrian town of Manbij, west of the Euphrates.

"They are not being honest, they are still not removing terrorists (from Manbij)," Erdogan said. "Therefore, we will do it."

Erdogan's statement, given at a defense industry meeting, follows U.S. moves to set up observation posts in northern Syria, despite Turkey's objections. Turkey says the observation posts are aimed at protecting the YPG, while the U.S. says the posts were established to address Turkey's security concerns.

"We know that the aim of the radar and observation posts set up by the United States (east of the Euphrates) is not to protect our country from terrorists, but to protect the terrorists from Turkey," Erdogan said.

Commenting on the Erdogan remarks, a Pentagon spokesman said U.S.-Turkish coordination and consultation is the "only approach" to security issues in this area.

cates of Brexit. "Brexit means Brexit" became her mantra—a meaningless one, according to her detractors.

For a time, May was able to unite the warring factions of her party, which for decades has been divided over policy toward Europe. But her authority was severely dented when she gambled in April 2017 by calling a snap election in hopes of strengthening her

hand in divorce negotiations with the EU—only to lose her majority in Parliament.

May kept her government going by cobbling together a deal with the small Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, which is now threatening to withdraw its support because of opposition to her Brexit deal. The party's rejection of her deal will leave May's government in a peril-

ous position even if she survives the no-confidence vote.

Much of May's Conservative Party also hates the agreement, struck after a year and a half of tough negotiations between Britain and the EU.

The pro-Brexit wing of the party says it gives too much away and will leave Britain bound to EU rules after it leaves. Pro-EU Conservatives criticize May for ruling out a

### US urges UN to ban Iran nuclear missiles, keep arms embargo

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday to again ban Iranian ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and to maintain an arms embargo that is scheduled to be lifted in 2020 under the landmark Iran nuclear deal.

He also urged the council to prevent Iran from circumventing existing arms restrictions by authorizing the inspection of ships in ports and stopping them on the high seas.

"Iran's ballistic missile activity is out of control," Pompeo said. "Iran has been on a testing spree and a proliferation spree that must come to an end."

Pompeo spoke at a Security Council meeting on Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement that the Trump administration pulled out of earlier this year and the council resolution endorsing it.

The United States faces an uphill struggle in getting Security Council approval for Pompeo's proposals, especially following U.S. withdrawal from

the 2015 nuclear deal, which is still supported by the five other parties—Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. The Trump administration's re-imposition in November of sanctions against Iran that it had eased under the nuclear deal has also angered some key council members as well as U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Pompeo criticized the council for weakening the ban on nuclear-capable Iranian missiles that was in effect from 2010 to 2015. The resolution adopted in 2015 to endorse the nuclear deal "calls upon"—but does not require—Iran to halt such activity, and it also supports lifting the arms embargo in 2020.

Iran's deputy U.N. ambassador, Eshagh Al Habib, accused the United States of "another series of lies, fabrications, disinformation and deceptive statements" about its ballistic missile program.

He told the Security Council that "Iran's ballistic missile program is designed to be exclusively capable of

delivering conventional warheads required to deter foreign threats." He said it has no nuclear component.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzya said Iran is not banned from conducting ballistic missile launches and there is no proof its missiles are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Pompeo accused Iran of building the largest ballistic missile force in the region, one capable of threatening the Mideast and Europe, saying it has more than 10 ballistic missile systems in its inventory or in development and hundreds of missiles. He quoted the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's airspace division, Amir Ali Hajzadeh, boasting Monday that Iran is capable of building missiles with a range beyond 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles).

"Iran has exploited the goodwill of nations and defied multiple Security Council resolutions in its quest for a robust ballistic missile force," Pompeo said. "The United States will never stand for this.

No nation that seeks peace and prosperity in the Middle East should either."

He said the Trump administration will exert "American leadership" to build a coalition of countries around the world to acknowledge and deter Iran's continued missile proliferation.

Pompeo said the U.S. and Europe have a different view on the Iran nuclear deal. "They view it as the linchpin; I view it as a disaster," he said.

But, he added, Europeans are concerned about the Iranian ballistic missile buildup.

Before the council meeting, eight European Union nations underlined their commitment to the Iran nuclear deal while urging Tehran to stop its "destabilizing regional activities" especially the launch of ballistic missiles.

Ambassadors of the eight nations—Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom—said "it has been confirmed that Iran continues to implement its nuclear related commitments."



# Science & Technology

## For retailers, smartphone is future of store experience

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Just a few years ago, retailers considered smartphones the enemy of the in-store experience they were trying to create. Customers often whipped out their device to compare prices online and then walked out of the store to buy the same product elsewhere.

Today, stores are taking their cues from shoppers and now consider the smartphone their friend. They're giving shoppers more control over the experience with smartphone app features that let customers do things like scan and pay, as well as download digital maps—and replicate the online experience.

Nike created a buzz last month when it unveiled two new features on its mobile app during the opening of its latest high tech store in New York City. One feature lets shoppers see details of every item displayed on a mannequin by scanning the QR code next to it. Then with just a click, they can have the looks delivered to a fitting room or a designated pickup spot without ever talking to a store clerk.

Another feature, instant checkout, lets customers who've stored their credit card information on their phone scan the barcode of an item, click the purchase button, then walk right out of the store.

Shoppers are increasingly using their mobile devices to make purchases. That was evidenced at the start of the holiday shopping season, when 33 percent of online Black Friday sales were made on smartphones compared with 29.1 percent on Black Friday last year, says Adobe Analytics,



AP  
In this Nov. 2, 2018 photo, a patron at the Mall at Short Hills in Short Hills, N.J., passes the Boll & Branch furniture store.

which tracks online spending.

"They're browsing, they're looking at content, they're getting reviews and they're transacting," said Jeff Gennette, CEO of Macy's, who expects the department store chain to hit \$1 billion in mobile sales for the first time by year-end.

But there's still room for improvement. Stores need to do a better job of promoting their mobile checkout while working out some kinks. They also need to make their in-store Wi-Fi service more reliable, analysts say.

Here are three problem areas:

**KINKS IN MOBILE CHECKOUT:** Walmart, Target and other large retailers have been sending workers throughout the busiest sections of their stores to check out customers with mobile devices. At Macy's, shoppers can scan and pay for items using a new app feature on their own smartphones. From there, they must then go to a mobile checkout express line or a regular cash

register and show the app to a worker, who will remove security tags from clothing.

But there are limitations to the services. For stores like Walmart and Target, shoppers can only use mobile checkout for a limited number of items; if they have a cart full of products, they'll need to still go the cash register. And unlike Nike, many stores aren't heavily promoting the service.

**SPOTTY WI-FI SERVICE:** Stores' Wi-Fi service had been good enough for shoppers to tap into general information on their phones. But now it needs to be more reliable to handle all the digital content and services, according to Neil Saunders, managing director of Global-Data Retail, a retail research

firm. Analysts say the connections are still spotty and are not consistent within the store, and the service gets worse when the store is crowded.

"They haven't built the Wi-Fi to deal with all these functions," Saunders said.

**UNRELIABLE PICK UP SERVICE:** Plenty of major retailers are offering easier ways for customers to pick up items ordered online beyond the service desk. And they're using their smartphones to get alerts on when to pick up their purchases. But analysts say there are still problems of shoppers walking in and not getting the item they said would be ready.

Anthony Karabus, CEO of HRC Retail Advisory, a consultancy, surveyed 30

top retailers heading into the holidays and found the online pickup service wasn't dependable because of a disconnect

between the items the system tells shoppers are in a specific store versus what the retail actually has on hand.

## Brands born on the internet embrace physical stores

**SHORT HILLS, N.J. (AP)**—Online retailers are getting physical.

A growing number of brands born on the internet are now opening brick-and-mortar stores and moving into the suburban malls once considered doomed as more Americans shopped online.

But they're taking it even further by doubling-down on the tactile experience. Online mattress retailer Casper, for instance, is opening stores that allow customers to book naps and test out mattresses before buying. Indochino—the online tailor—decided to borrow from the old Savile Row model where customers can be measured face-to-face for custom suits.

"Online brands have embraced clicks-to-bricks," said Faith Hope Consolo, chairman of Prudential Douglas Elliman's retail division. "Shoppers love to touch, interact and try on in person and malls are upping the ante by offering immersive experiences that are exciting and memorable."

The store openings mark a major shift for formerly online-only brands that just a few years ago believed they didn't need a physical presence to generate robust sales growth.

Are these the brands that might save the mall? Many once online-only retailers are moving into the suburban mall, finding value in the traditional store but offering experiences tailored to their customers. (Dec. 6)

Digital natives are now finding that the cost of acquiring new customers online is soaring as competition for eyeballs has increased the cost of online ads on Google and other platforms. At the same time, opening a store has become more affordable as higher mall vacancies have prompted landlords to offer flexible leases and other perks. It can be 10 times more expensive to acquire a new customer online as it is with a physical store, said Jim Ward, who heads up recruiting for online brands for mall owner CBL.

## TECH Q&A Security upgrade loses some saved e-mail

**Q: Comcast told me I had to change my Outlook 2007 settings in order to keep receiving e-mail. After I made the changes, I could still send e-mails but I couldn't receive any, and a new inbox was created that didn't contain my old e-mail. A Comcast technician finally helped fix Outlook so I could send and receive e-mail again, but many messages contained in the original inbox are missing. How can I get my e-mails back?**

**A:** Comcast is trying to make its e-mail system more secure for customers with older POP (post office protocol) e-mail accounts. To do that, it's requiring you to switch Outlook 2007's e-mail communications to a different "port," or software connection. (Specifically, you're being asked to switch Outlook from port 110 to port 995; see [tinyurl.com/yb63okm5](http://tinyurl.com/yb63okm5)).

This has been a bumpy transition, and several customers have complained that their e-mail didn't work after they changed the Outlook port

number. In your case, Comcast seems to have made your e-mail work correctly, but at the expense of deleting old e-mails that you wanted to save.

The big question is whether those missing e-mails can be recovered. In POP e-mail accounts, the default setting is for e-mails to be deleted from the mail server once they've been downloaded to your PC. So, if the e-mails are also missing from your PC, they may be gone for good.

But, if the e-mails still exist somewhere, here are some ways you can try to recover them:

■ If the missing e-mails were only recently deleted, you might be able to recover them from within Outlook (see directions at [tinyurl.com/y9gyhuoq](http://tinyurl.com/y9gyhuoq)).

■ It's possible that the missing e-mails were saved somewhere on your PC. To find them, search your PC's hard drive for files in the ".pst" format that Outlook 2007 uses. To do that, open Windows Explorer (called File Explorer in Windows 8 and 10), click on

**By STEVE ALEXANDER**  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.



the C drive, and in the search box at the upper right, type ".pst" (without the quotation marks.) Click Enter.

■ POP mail accounts can be set so that they don't automatically delete e-mail from the server once the messages have been downloaded to a computer (see [tinyurl.com/yb4lp8ou](http://tinyurl.com/yb4lp8ou)). If your account is set up that way, your old mail may still be on Comcast's mail server.

■ E-mail providers like Comcast sometimes retain deleted e-mail on the server for a limited period of time before actually erasing it. If that's the case, Comcast may be able to help you recover some recently deleted mail.

**Q: I think my Outlook e-mail program is set up to send messages in HTML format. How do I change that to plain text format?**

**A:** Go to the File tab in Outlook, choose "options," then choose "mail." Under the heading "compose messages," go to "compose messages in this format" and click on HTML, plain text or rich text.

Plain text is the simplest format. Rich text supports bold and italic typefaces and symbols such as bullets. HTML offers colored text, different fonts, numbered lists and the inclusion of photos. For more about HTML e-mail, see my recent column ([tinyurl.com/y7zesnje](http://tinyurl.com/y7zesnje)).



Source: American Chemical Society; fish photo by Henry Kaiser and Paul Czeko; TNS Photos (Antarctic photo)  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



# Off The Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### Apparent Grinch on video driving through Christmas display

**GREENWOOD, Ind. (AP)**—An apparent Grinch was spotted on surveillance video plowing through a Christmas display outside a suburban Indianapolis home and tips are being sought to find the man. WRTV broadcast the video recorded Sunday night by a neighbor's camera in Greenwood. The video starts with a man getting out of a black SUV and then walking up to take a closer look at the front yard where Casie Arnold says her family had a 12-foot-tall (3.7-meter-tall) inflatable snowman. The man gets back into the vehicle, backs up and drives through the family's yard and over the decoration. Arnold says they heard a pop while watching a Christmas movie. Tire tracks were in the yard. Arnold says she wonders if the driver was possibly a Grinch who doesn't like Christmas.

### Rat found in vending machine at Florida high school

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—Students at a Florida high school found an unwelcome surprise in a vending machine: a rat climbing the rows of packaged snacks and drinks. Video of the rat shot by an 11th-grader quickly spread on social media among students at Atlantic Community High school in Delray Beach. In the video aired by news station WPTV, the brown rat appears as large as a snack-size bag of chips. A Palm Beach County Schools statement says the vending machine was quickly locked Tuesday to keep students from using it. The district says the vending machine company was alerted and an exterminator was called to the school. Student Kael Williams said the incident was particularly disgusting because students eat from that machine throughout the day.

### Report: 'High-tech' robot on Russian TV was man in suit

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russian media say a contraption presented by Russian state television as a high-tech robot was in fact a man in a commercially available robot costume. The footage was shot at a high-tech show in the city of Yaroslavl that opened Tuesday, featuring "Boris the Robot." Forum organizers used Boris to enliven the event, having him dance to a pop song. But a crew for Russian

state television apparently thought Boris was real, and used footage of him dancing and speaking as an example of Russian technological prowess. Online TJournal noted the lack of sensors, human-like movements and other discrepancies, and revealed that Boris was in fact a human clad in a costume sold under the name Alyosha by the Russian company Show Robots.

### Moose rings Alaska home's doorbell

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—A moose used the doorbell to awaken a couple in Alaska. The couple thought maybe it was an aftershock or some kids playing a prank when the doorbell rang in their Anchorage home early Wednesday. Kyle Stultz tells KTVA-TV he looked out the door and found nothing. He assumed it was kids playing "ding dong ditch." Stultz decided to check his security camera. The video showed a large moose backing its caboose right into the doorbell. The family was relieved it was nothing else.

### Man sues after getting finger caught in airplane armrest

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A man is suing after he says one of his pinky fingers was caught in an airline armrest mechanism for nearly an hour during a flight to Los Angeles. City News Service reports Stephen Keys has filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court against both American Airlines Inc. and SkyWest Airlines Inc., alleging negligence. A representative for American, which has a flying agreement with SkyWest, referred all comment to SkyWest, which said, "We worked with our partner American to reach out to Mr. Keys regarding his bruised finger and look forward to swiftly resolving this matter. Due to the ongoing litigation, we cannot comment further." The complaint says the injury to his finger left Keys unable to perform such previously routine tasks as driving and playing with his children. It says Keys experienced weeks of intense pain and severe emotional distress.

### Man, woman drive from Arizona to Wyoming with kids in trunk

**CASPER, Wyo. (AP)**—A man and woman admit in court they drove from Arizona to Wyoming with two children in the trunk of their car. Sixty-three-year-old Michael J. Fee

and 31-year-old Amber L. Freudenstein each pleaded guilty Thursday to two misdemeanor counts of child endangerment. The Casper Star-Tribune reports Circuit Judge Steven Brown sentenced each to 30 days in jail. Fee is from Peoria, Arizona, and Freudenstein is from Tempe, Arizona. Sheriff's officials say a third party told them the children reported riding in the trunk for much of the 900-mile drive while two German shepherds sat in the back seat. Fee said in court there was not enough room for everyone so the children were relegated to the trunk. Court documents show the children are about 6 and 10 years old.

### Man yells 'there's no Santa' at Florida holiday event

**CAPE CORAL, Fla. (AP)**—It wasn't the Grinch who stole Christmas. It was a man who screamed "there's no Santa Claus" over and over during a recent holiday festival in Florida. A southwest Florida woman shared cellphone footage with Fort Myers television station NBC-2 of the man yelling during the Cape Coral Festival of Lights on Saturday night. Cape Coral police told the station that officers were at the event but couldn't do anything because the man was exercising his freedom of speech. They added they could have intervened had he used a voice enhancer such as a megaphone, or started a riot. Cindy Menkes of Cape Coral says it's about decency and said she's sad that "the magic of this time of year" was taken away from some children.

### Leaping lemur surprises Florida trooper during DUI arrest

**SANFORD, Fla. (AP)**—A lemur surprised a Florida Highway Patrol trooper when it crawled from a trailer being pulled by a pickup truck that had been stopped for driving erratically and hitting other cars. Dashcam video shows the lemur peeking out of the trailer before hopping to the ground and leaping around the trooper who was talking to the driver along Interstate 4 in Sanford on Saturday night. The video shows the trooper doing a double-take as the lemur runs around and stands on its hind legs. Twenty-seven-year-old driver Shane Taylor warned troopers that the lemur named Miko "bites." Taylor was arrested on several charges including

DUI. State wildlife officers took custody of the lemur and other exotic animals including a tortoise, a goat, a parrot and a wallaby. Jail records don't list a lawyer for Taylor.

### Factory mishap paves street with chocolate in Germany

**BERLIN (AP)**—A street in a western German town got a repaving worthy of fictional candy maker Willy Wonka when a ton of chocolate flowed out of a factory and solidified. The German newspaper Soester Anzeiger reported Tuesday that a "small technical defect" involving a storage tank caused the sweet and sticky spill from the DreiMeister chocolate factory in West-


oennen. After hitting the chilly pavement, the milk chocolate quickly hardened. About 25 firefighters got the job of prying the coating off with shovels and using hot water and torches to remove remaining bits from cracks and holes. Company boss Markus Luckey told the Anzeiger the factory would be back in action on Wednesday. Luckey said if the spill had happened closer to Christmas, "that would have been a catastrophe."

### Crews rescue man stuck in grease vent of empty restaurant

**SAN LORENZO, Calif. (AP)**—A man who authorities say was possibly trying to burglarize an abandoned Chinese

restaurant has been rescued from the grease vent, where officials say he had been trapped for two days. The Alameda County sheriff's office says deputies and firefighters were called to the vacant building in San Lorenzo on Wednesday after someone heard cries for help. The office says that when officials arrived they found the grease-covered man stuck inside the metal vent. Sgt. Ray Kelly tells the San Francisco Chronicle the man was in generally good condition despite being exposed to the elements. Kelly says the unidentified man was taken to a hospital, and deputies will decide later whether to book him into jail or issue a citation.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE



†RICARDO NICOLAS REYES

(aka...Edeng, Bata)

Born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1951,  
was called by his Creator on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2018  
to join his parents, the late Agapito Reyes and Arsenia Nicolas  
in eternal peace and happiness.

In his new life, he will be interceding for and missed by  
Bernardita Guban (spouse), Jeanylyn (daughter),  
Marlon H. Vallejos (son-in-law), Rhine (son)  
and Marlon Joaquin Vallejos (grandson).

Daily rosary every 5:00p.m. is held at  
Saipan Computer Services and will continue until  
Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2018.

He was laid to rest at Himalayang Palanyag of Parañaque City,  
after a Catholic Mass at the Parañaque Cathedral  
at 2:00p.m. on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2018.

Your thoughts and prayers are most appreciated.

-The family-



# Life & Style

## 'A Star Is Born' tops SAG Awards nominations, snubs abound

"A Star Is Born" led nominations for the 25th Screen Actors Guild Awards with four nods including best ensemble on Wednesday, firmly establishing Bradley Cooper's romantic revival as this year's Academy Awards front runner.

In nominations announced in West Hollywood, Calif., the actors guild—one of the most predictive bellwethers of the Oscars—threw cold water on the awards campaigns of numerous contenders while elevating others. But "A Star Is Born" fared the best of all, landing nominations for Cooper (best male actor), Lady Gaga (best female actor) and Sam Elliott (best supporting male actor).

The other nominees for the group's top award, best ensemble, were: "Black Panther," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "BlacKkKlansman" and "Crazy Rich Asians."

That category is the most closely watched because only once in the last two decades has the eventual Oscars best picture winner not been nominated for best ensemble at the SAG Awards. The one aberration, though, was last year, when Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" overcame the SAG omission on its way to winning best picture.

Unless a new trend is forming, that's worrisome

news for Oscar hopefuls like "Vice," Adam McKay's Dick Cheney biopic (which led last week's Golden Globe nominations); Alfonso Cuarón's Netflix drama "Roma" (the overwhelming choice of critics groups); and the 1962 road trip "Green Book."

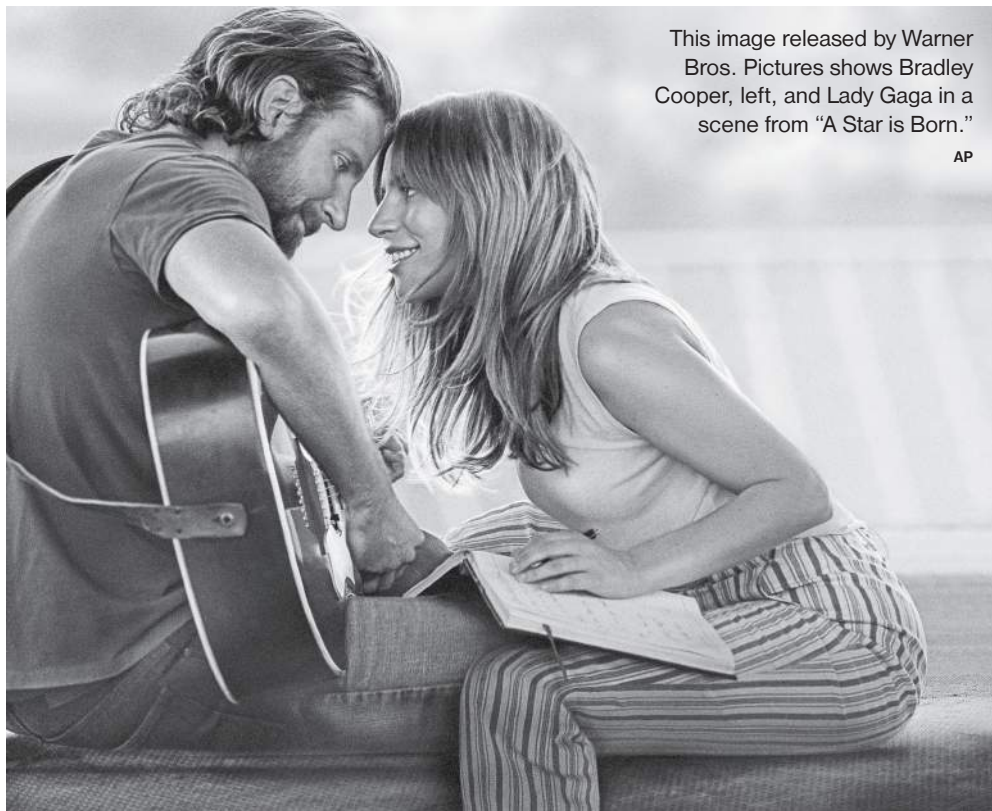
"Vice" still scored SAG nods for Christian Bale and Amy Adams, just as "Green Book" won nominations for Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali.

But "Roma" was shut out entirely, as was Damien Chazelle's Neil Armstrong drama "First Man" and Barry Jenkins' Harlem love story "If Beale Street Could Talk." Most expected Regina King of "Beale Street" to be among the supporting female actor nominees.

Instead, Wednesday's nominations gave an unlikely boost to "Bohemian Rhapsody," the Freddie Mercury biopic that has been a hit with audiences but was slammed by critics. Despite being widely viewed as a riveting one-man show by Rami Malek, the film ended up nominated for its ensemble cast. Malek was also nominated for best actor.

The screen actors appeared to favor big ticket sellers over smaller independent ensembles.

Ryan Coogler's comic-book sensation "Black Panther"



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Bradley Cooper, left, and Lady Gaga in a scene from "A Star Is Born."

AP

also landed a nomination for its stunt ensemble team. Spike Lee's "BlacKkKlansman" scored nods for both John David Washington and Adam Driver. "Crazy Rich Asians" co-star Awkwafina, a presenter Wednesday morning, has the unusual pleasure of announcing the hit romantic comedy's ensemble nomination. "It was all me," she joked.

Yorgos Lanthimos' period romp "The Favourite" failed to crack best ensemble, but its three leads—Olivia Col-

man, Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone—were all nominated, as expected. Stone added a second nod for her performance in the Netflix miniseries "Maniac."

Emily Blunt also scored two nominations herself: one for her lead performance in "Mary Poppins Returns" and one for her supporting role in "A Quiet Place." The other best female performance nominees alongside Blunt, Lady Gaga and Colman were Glenn Close ("The Wife") and

Melissa McCarthy ("Can You Ever Forgive Me?")

Blunt's nomination for "A Quiet Place" was among the nominations' many surprises, as was Margot Robbie's supporting turn as Queen Elizabeth in "Mary Queen of Scots."

Timothée Chalamet ("Call Me By Your Name") scored his second straight SAG nomination for his supporting performance in the addiction drama "Beautiful Boy." Rounding out the category alongside Ali, Driver and El-

liott was Richard E. Grant for "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

Usually, about 15 of the SAG's 20 individual acting nominees line up exactly with the eventual Oscar field.

In television categories, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "Ozark" led with four nominations each. "Barry," "GLOW," "The Handmaid's Tale" and "The Kominsky Method" trailed close behind with three nominations each.

Up for best ensemble in comedy are "Atlanta," "Barry," "GLOW," "The Kominsky Method" and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." The drama series ensemble nominees went to: "The Americans," "Better Call Saul," "The Handmaid's Tale," "Ozark" and "This Is Us."

Though Netflix was nearly shut out on the film side (its lone nomination was for the stunt ensemble of "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"), it dominated the television categories with 15 total nods.

The SAG Awards will be held Jan. 27 and broadcast live by TNT and TBS. This year's show will honor Alan Alda with the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award.

The ceremony will be hosted by actress Megan Mullally, the guild announced Wednesday. The previous SAG Awards, when Kristen Bell emceed, was the first time the broadcast was hosted. (AP)

## Emily Blunt on the 'daunting' task of playing Mary Poppins

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Emily Blunt loves a challenge, and in the world of movie musicals there's no greater trial than following in the footsteps of Julie Andrews to bring one of her most iconic, and beloved, roles to the screen for the first time in over half a century.

It's only Mary Poppins. No pressure, right?

But the 35-year-old British actress has always been drawn to roles that scare her, and it's proven to be a good strategy. Some of her most memorable parts have been those "impossible" ones, like stealing scenes from Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada" and doing stunts with Tom Cruise in "The Edge of Tomorrow."

There's no one type of Emily Blunt role, but some roles seem like they could only be for her, and for director and choreographer Rob Marshall, the practically perfect nanny was one of them. When he signed on for "Mary Poppins Returns," which would be a sequel to the 1964 classic, hers was the first name he thought of.

"It was the quickest, fastest



Blunt

idea. I knew in one second who it was," said Marshall. "She had all the requirements."

He knew how big of an ask it was ("It's the climbing of Mount Everest," he said), but he also knew from directing her in Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" that she was the right triple threat for the job.

"She's so fearless," he added. "I just knew that she would make it her own."

And Blunt said yes to Marshall in a single conversation.

"I knew I had my work cut

out for me just because of how extraordinary the original was and how beautiful Julie was in the original. But I knew that if I was going to take a big swing and carve out new space for myself, if I do it under Rob's guidance, I'd be all right," Blunt said. "He's kind of a magician. He's a bit of a Mary Poppins himself."

She was able to take a year, during which she was "massively" pregnant with her second child, before they started rehearsing and filming to figure out her interpretation of the character with the help of P.L. Travers' books.

"She is very different in the books," Blunt said. "She is completely batty and funny and vain and rude and terribly empathetic in a very weird way, not necessarily by what she says but by what she does."

Although she held fond memories of Andrews' performance, she hadn't revisited it as an adult and decided not to before filming.

"I didn't have any of the details of what she did with the character in my head, I

just had the sort of lasting impact of the joy bomb that the original was," she said. "That was very helpful. I just read the books."

For Blunt, who delights in altering her voice and physicality for every role, her Mary Poppins was going to be "a weird amalgamation" of Rosalind Russell in "His Girl Friday" and Princess Margaret.

"I wanted her to speak very quickly because I wanted her to have that impact where she almost renders people speechless, so that they're helpless but to comply with what she wants. It's like she gives them no time to think," Blunt said. "You're almost not quite sure if she's planting a seed or not and you're like, 'Wait is there an enigmatic master plan afoot?'"

The film, out nationwide on Dec. 19, finds the now-grown Banks children Michael (Ben Whishaw) and Jane (Emily Mortimer) faced with their own troubles, and Mary Poppins steps in to help care for Michael's three children and get their lives back on track.

Blunt uprooted her own

family, including her then 5-month-old, to London for about a year to film the massive project, which at the time was one of the biggest productions she'd ever been part of. She said everyone felt the weight of responsibility to do justice to the original, and she hopes that this version will give people joy and an escape.

"Everyone is always trying to do the next thing, the new thing, what else, what else what else, the grass is greener," she said. "And I think we need nostalgic moments in our lives."

It's also capping off a big year for Blunt and her husband, John Krasinski, which started with the unexpected success of "A Quiet Place" and is ending not only with the release of "Mary Poppins Returns," but awards buzz and nominations for both films as well. On Wednesday, she picked up Screen Actors Guild nominations for both films.

"It is sort of an impossible task to absorb and digest what's going on," Blunt said. "It's almost like it's happening to somebody else. It's a bit out of body."

## 5 charged with running massive movie piracy ring

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles federal grand jury has indicted five men who allegedly ran an international piracy ring that offered hundreds of stolen movies and TV shows online, including "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Godzilla" and "The Walking Dead."

Wednesday's indictment alleges the men hacked computer systems used by Hollywood film production companies to steal digital files; recorded movie theater screenings and obtained copies of movies sent to industry professionals.

The ring allegedly had a server in France that contained 25,000 files including stolen movies, trailers, TV episodes and audio tracks.

The men are charged with conspiracy, computer hacking, ID theft and copyright infringement. They live in the United Kingdom, India, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. None are in U.S. custody but the UK resident awaits trial on similar charges there.



# Beyonce! Hillary! India revels in a very big wedding

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—In a season of big Indian weddings, the Wednesday marriage of the scions of two billionaire families might be the biggest of them all.

The bride, Isha Ambani, is the Ivy League-educated daughter of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, thought to be India's richest man. Forbes estimates his net worth at over \$43 billion.

The groom, Anand Piramal, is the relative pauper. His father, industrialist Ajay Piramal, is thought to be worth \$10 billion.

The wedding is being held in Mumbai on Wednesday but festivities began weeks ago, starting in September with an engagement party at a lakeside Italian palace.

Over the weekend, thousands attended pre-wedding parties at a 16th century palace in the Indian desert city of Udaipur, where videos shot by partiers showed Hillary Clinton dancing with Shah Rukh Khan, one of India's biggest movie stars, as former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry danced just a few feet away.

A highlight was a performance by Beyonce, who sang "Crazy In Love," among other hits, with a band backing her up and a series of costume changes that included at least one India-inspired outfit.

"Beyonce Lights Up Udaipur," the Times of India shouted in a Tuesday headline.

Indian weddings are famously elaborate, driving



AP  
In this handout photo released by Reliance Industries Limited, newlyweds Isha Ambani, right, and Anand Piramal sit holding hands in Mumbai, India.

their guests.

Indian grooms traditionally ride to their weddings on horses, but Piramal arrived at the Ambani home in a classic Rolls Royce, with marching bands playing in the procession and scowling bodyguards scattered through the crowds.

Near the family home, Mumbai resident Kashyap Sompura said he was not bothered by the extravagance.

"People, even when they don't have money, they take loans and do lavish weddings," said Sompura, 50. For someone of Ambani's wealth, "I don't think there is anything wrong with him sparing money for that."

Mukesh Ambani controls the conglomerate Reliance Industries, which has businesses ranging from petroleum to chemicals to mobile phones. The Piramal family businesses include pharmaceuticals and real estate.

The competitiveness of India's wintertime wedding season is growing more extreme, according to Archana Dalmia, a social activist in New Delhi.

"A farmer might commit suicide because he can't save enough money to get his daughter married," she said.

## Argentine actor in anti-sex abuse video accused of rape

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)**—An Argentine television actor who participated in a video asking women to denounce sexual assaults is himself being accused of rape.

Actress Thelma Fardin accused Juan Darthes on Tuesday night of raping her in 2009 when she was 16 and he was 45. She spoke during a news conference act in Buenos Aires, where she was joined by dozens of other prominent actresses.

"Today we say enough. Listen to us, it's time that the impunity for abusers ends," actress and singer Lali Esposito said in a statement read by her and other artists.

Fardin said she had recently filed a criminal complaint in Nicaragua, where she says she was raped by Darthes in a hotel during a promotional tour for "Ugly Duckling," a children's television series.

Darthes has denied the al-

legation.

Three other women have accused him of harassment or abuse.

Writers, politicians and journalists have shown their support for Fardin on social media.

The case has brought back memories of the #MeToo movement that began in the United States in 2017 after sexual assault allegations surfaced against producer Harvey Weinstein.

Argentine President Mauricio Macri said Wednesday on Twitter that his government has canceled broadcasts of a public service announcement against gender violence that was made in 2016 and featured Darthes.

Macri said the move is "out of respect" for Fardin's criminal complaint.

"Our commitment is to work to eradicate all types of violence against women," Macri said.

many families into debt with expectations that they invite hundreds or thousands of people, and arranging professional song-and-dance shows.

Among India's rich, weddings are displays of almost unimaginable wealth, with guests flown in on chartered jets from around the world

and celebrities paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for brief appearances. In 2004, a daughter of Indian steel baron Lakshmi Mittal held her engagement party at Versailles.

The Indian media noted that the actual Ambani wedding, in Mumbai, was expected to be a relatively small affair,

with just 600 or so people in attendance. More parties will follow the marriage ceremony.

Antilla, the Ambanis' 27-story Mumbai home, has been strung with lights for the wedding, looking like a small skyscraper at night. The family is said to have reserved hundreds of hotel rooms for

## Happy Days? Director Ron Howard visits Oklahoma birthplace

**DUNCAN, Okla. (AP)**—Oscar-winning movie director Ron Howard says he still feels connected to the Oklahoma town where he was born but never lived, after visiting the now-shuttered hospital of his birth.

Howard this week posted a photo of himself on Instagram posing outside the boarded-up building in Duncan, 75 miles (120 kilometers) southwest of Oklahoma City.

Howard says his family lived in Biloxi, Mississippi,

but that his mother wanted to give birth in Duncan, her hometown. Howard says he never lived there but feels "a connection to the town & people."

The family later moved to California where Howard's

father, Rance Howard, was an actor. His mother, Jean Speegle Howard, also acted. Both appeared in their son's movies "Cocoon" and "Apollo 13."

Jean Howard died in 2000. Rance Howard died in 2017.

## Divorcing mom is grateful for new man's friendship

**DEAR ABBY:** A year ago my 13-year marriage fell apart. My husband, "Rick," will be spending the next six years in prison. I am 32 and have two boys, ages 13 and 15.

The last year has been pretty tough for all of us. I've been learning how to be both mother and father to them. I am also heartbroken by what he did that landed him in prison. I have filed for divorce, and there will be no reconciliation.

I never thought I would be with another man. Rick is the only man I have ever been with. But over the last couple of months I have begun developing feelings for someone, or at least I think I have.

"Jason" is a great man. We attend the same church, and it's very important to me and my family that he's devoted to God like we are. Jason loves my kids, and my kids like him a lot, too. He has also taken the time to mentor my oldest son. Every time I see Jason I feel happier than I've been in a very long time. He is the polar opposite of Rick, and he has no idea of how strong my feelings are toward him.

Should I let Jason know what my feelings are? I'm confused. Could this just be me wanting companionship? I love being his friend and would like to continue to be. I don't want to ruin it by revealing my feelings if he doesn't feel the same. Also, I don't want to rush into anything. Please advise me.

LONELY AND CONFUSED OUT WEST

**DEAR LONELY AND CONFUSED:** There is nothing wrong with wanting companionship, but the last thing you and your children need is for you to jump from the frying pan into the fire. You are still a married woman. Jason may be terrific—Heaven sent, even—but it's too soon to "declare" anything. The two of you are still getting to know each other, and love needs time to develop. Be patient and allow the relationship to evolve gradually in its own time.

**DEAR ABBY:** This is for delivery drivers or anyone making a delivery to your house that requires a signature or a real person to receive the item (i.e., an Uber driver with food). I'm 61 and have very bad knees. I can't just jump up and run to the door. Today a driver knocked on my door and then, as I was trying to get out of my chair and walk to the door, he started punching the doorbell repeatedly.

People with arthritis, bad knees or many other conditions can't get there in an instant. Please give folks like us a minute to get to the door. Someone could fall while trying to rush and get hurt.

NOT FAST ENOUGH IN FLORIDA

DEAR N.F.E.: You make a good point. Delivery people

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

sometimes become frustrated because they have many deliveries to make. A solution to your problem might be to post a small sign next to your doorbell that reads: Please be patient. I'll open the door in a minute!

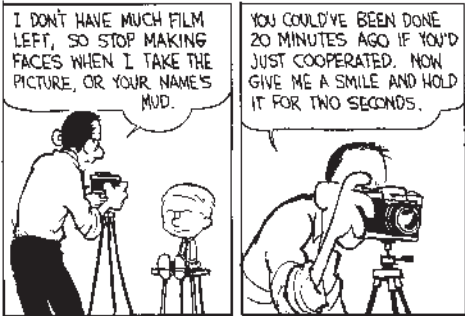
P.S. For those who are inclined, "smart" doorbells are available for use with a cellphone that enable you to communicate with a delivery person at the door before you get there. Consider getting one.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

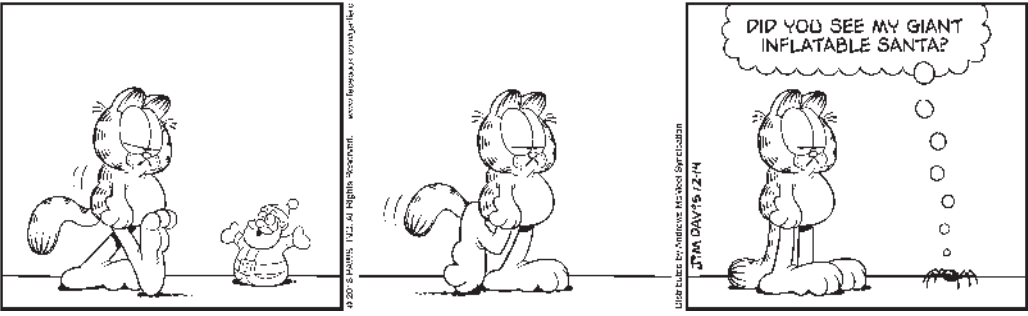
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

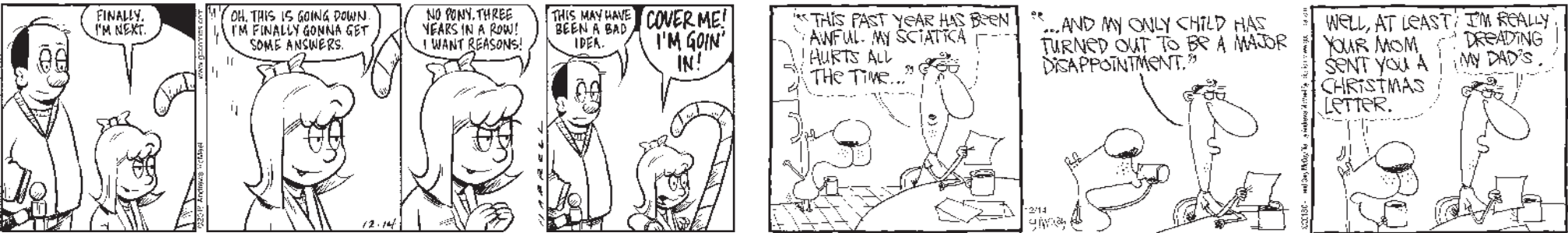


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Abrupt turn  
4 Dol. fractions  
7 Ill-suited  
12 Punk-rock subgenre  
13 Ump's call  
14 Golfer Watson  
15 Drunkard  
16 Rush-hour period, to radio stations  
18 Capote nickname  
19 Goof  
20 Slangy OKs  
22 Immigrant's subj.  
23 Valhalla VIP  
27 Bit of butter  
29 After-home-work period  
31 WWII sub  
34 Wishful words  
35 Period of self-care

**DOWN**

1 Piquant  
2 Love, Italian-style  
3 Arose  
4 "The Da Vinci —"  
5 Castle tower  
6 Mixes up  
7 Taxi alternative  
8 Fanatic org.  
9 G-man's  
10 "Big Blue"  
11 — kwon do  
17 Electric measure  
21 Iberian nation  
23 Different  
24 God, to Galileo  
25 Little rascal  
26 Born  
28 \$ dispenser  
30 Compete  
31 Ms. Thurman  
32 Wager  
33 Mel of Coopers-town  
36 Redact  
37 Fire-place flickerers  
40 Skip a sound  
42 Figure of speech  
43 Recess  
44 Deli turnover  
45 Undo a dele  
46 Faxed  
48 Proof letters  
49 Employ  
50 "Give — rest!"  
51 Slithery fish

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 12-14**

SPFA SKIT CATS  
EOS TONY ALOE  
ASTFRISK MFE  
EMO TELECOM  
SHRUBS SAL  
IOO LAI MOCHA  
URIS MAC TOOL  
NADAL PIG NSA  
VIM AUSTFN  
YULE LOG EAR  
ELIS NEWS CAS  
PEHU ERAI SFH  
SEEP TENS TOY

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Vanessa Hudgens, 30; Sophie Monk, 39; Beth Orton, 48; Dee Wallace, 70.

**Happy Birthday:** Take a moment to reflect and to consider what's happened and how you can come to terms with situations that are still bothering you. Move forward with trepidation, trusting in yourself and what your heart tells you. Truth will help you make better choices, and distancing yourself from those who have done you wrong will help you build a better future. Your numbers are 9, 11, 22, 26, 34, 39, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take care of pressing matters the first time so you aren't stuck cleaning up when you'd rather be out having fun with friends. A last-minute change someone makes will leave you wondering if you should make one as well. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A decision you make will help stabilize your life and get you moving down a positive path. Making a commitment or coming up with a plan to ensure you begin the upcoming year on the right foot should be a priority. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Stay focused on what's important. If you ask for too much, you may only receive the things that won't have an impact on your life moving forward. Have a plan in place and a goal in mind. Moderation will be required. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Take a unique approach to how you celebrate. A meaningful gift will far exceed a fancy token or lavish offering. A physical change

will be embraced with compliments and greater confidence. A little romance will highlight your day. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** A chance to do something different will prompt you to check out new opportunities in your community. Plan an eventful evening with friends or your lover, but avoid indulgence. A change at home should not go over budget. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The less time spent at home, the better. Don't become entangled in someone's bad mood or poor behavior. If you do something questionable, own up to it. It's best to clear the air so you can move forward without feeling guilty. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Consider what you'd like to do next and start researching your options. Signing up for a course that will help you raise your earning potential or ease your stress will give you something to look forward to. Focus on personal change. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Sign up for something that looks interesting. The people you meet will inspire you to get back to basics and explore your creative urges. A social event will make you realize how you feel about someone close to you. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Question anyone and anything that appears to be suspicious. Offer help you know will make a difference, but don't focus your efforts on those trying to take advantage of your kindness and good nature. Make a positive change to the way you live. \*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll be weighing choices and considering what you want to do next. Be realistic and don't make decisions or moves until you have everything in place. A premature change will leave you scrambling. Keep life simple. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** What you do for someone else will make you feel good and teach you something about who you are and what you can do. A change to the way you handle and earn your money will bring long-term success. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't trust in what others tell you. Go directly to the source and find out firsthand before you make a decision that can affect you personally. Getting along will be half the battle when dealing with peers and relatives. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are original, inventive and adaptable. You are determined and helpful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/14

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**REMEMBERING THE PAGER** Solution: 7 letters

R E P T S A F R E V I E C E R  
E T S A T N E M T N I O P P A  
T I T H G N N R E S U D N E L  
T L H C O E H P R I V A C Y U  
I L G T I S S E L E R I W U L  
M E I M U R K R L I V E I C L  
S T L P B A E S U D N E C L I E  
N A A R E T V M D N O E N N C  
A S U P N O I U N N K A O A  
R T S E T S R B N A T B R N  
T N I W O P E E A R A B E T N  
R E V R L D L H S D A H E C E  
E I O A N L C R E W O T P E T  
L L Y E Y C N E G R E M E L N  
A C S E D O C A R R I E R E A

Alert, Alphanumeric, Antenna, Appointment, Bands, Beeper, Bell, Carrier, Cellular, Channel, Chat, Clients, Codes, Data, Device, Display, Electronic, Emergency, End User, Enter, Fast, Icon, Lights, Link, Live, Motorola, Nurse, Page, Privacy, Push, Receiver, Satellite, Sender, Speaker, Tone, Tower, Transmitter, Vibrate, View, Visual, Wireless

**Yesterday's Answer: Ice Field**

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD**, Volumes 37 through 55 in time for the holidays. Order online at [WonderWordBooks.com](http://WonderWordBooks.com) or call 1-800-642-6480.

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



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**Address: Dandan Saipan Trucking Office**

WHATZIT Solution:  
Narrow the field

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The Position: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**

**Job Description:** Analysis of daily recording of revenue and expenditures for correct account classification in accordance with guidelines, generally accepted accounting principles and regulatory requirements; Reviews of all financial transactions entered in the general and subsidiary ledgers ensuring that all costs(labor, materials, overhead and costs) are completely and accurately recorded in the company's accounting system; Monitoring on a regular basis the status of inventory stocks on hand, and coordinates with chefs and purchasing officer regarding propriety of actual charges, compliance with approved budgets; Review of monthly budget-to-actual variances and cash flow sources and uses of funds; Based on results of analytics review, investigates causes of variances and prepares report for management information; Review and analysis of monthly operating report on activities and resources in support of compiled daily revenues and expenditures, aging, reports for receivables and payables and profit and loss accounts; Implementation of strict adherence to established internal control systems and procedures; Review of periodic tax filing (monthly gross receipt tax, corporate income tax return , FICA and EWR quarterly reports).

**Minimum Qualifications:** Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting; With at least 5-years of relevant work experience in Accounting; Must have knowledge and experience in Accounting software; Must be computer literate; and Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.

**Job Site:** Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**How to Apply:** Submit or mail resume and credentials to:

**JULIETA D. CUNANAN**  
*President*  
**D' ELEGANCE ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Office Address: Garapan, Saipan,  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501106, Saipan, MP 96950  
Email Address: delegancesaipan@gmail.com  
Telephone Number: (670) 234-9226

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**JVA No. 19-013**

**Opening Date: Friday, December 7, 2018**  
**Closing Date: Until filled**

**Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager (“DM”)**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking a qualified Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager (“DM”). CUC is a public utility corporation, operating on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”)—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical paradise of fourteen islands. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:**

Reporting directly to CUC's Deputy Executive Director or designee, the “DM” fills a position required by the Stipulated Order (“SO”) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (which may also be known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater)
- Manages and oversees the CUC Drinking Water and Wastewater Division.
- Supervises employees in direct charge of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment plants utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.
- Responsible for the effective and efficient utilization of equipment, materials, and personnel to complete water and wastewater maintenance programs in a timely and cost effective manner.
- Manages, leads, motivates, and develops staff towards attaining needed training, skills, and certifications.
- Plays significant role in the management of drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; user fee system development.
- Prepares and maintains various records and reports for the division, including: purchase orders and invoices, monthly status reports, maintenance records, budget status, etc.
- Other duties as required or assigned.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

- An equivalent to a four year college degree or other field related to work with large-scale utilities and may substitute for one year of the required experience;
- Five years of proven, specialized experience as a manager in direct charge of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment plants utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.
- Skills: Proven manager with communication skills dealing with the public, operations staff and senior management; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff.
- Experience: Experience with managing drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with drinking water and wastewater systems; user fee system development; staff training and development; and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of at least three (3) million gallons per day (“mgd”) of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering.
- Preferred Requirements:
  - Bachelor's degree in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Civil Engineering, Public Administration, or a degree related to the position.
  - Current (unexpired) level 3 certifications from a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, or the District of Columbia in water treatment, and water distribution.
  - Current (unexpired) level 2 certifications from a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, or the District of Columbia in wastewater treatment, and wastewater distribution.

**LOCATION:** SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY INFORMATION:**  
Based on specialized experience as a water and wastewater utility manager in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia. Base salary starts at \$100,000. Also, based on educational achievement and specific (unexpired) certifications stated in this ad as preferred requirements.

**POSITION:** One (1).

**CONTRACT:** Two-year; subject to renewal.

**RELOCATION EXPENSES:**  
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS:**  
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail™: Human Resource Office  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation P.O. Box 501220  
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

\*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax “or” email “or” drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org
4. Drop Off:  
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

**POLICIES:**  
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.  
It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

**An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer**  
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• 5-Liner

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**Classified Ads**

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**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**WHATZIT?**<sup>TM</sup>

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**FIELD**

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# Harper sweepstakes at winter meetings



**LAS VEGAS**—It was Santa Claus

standing under the Christmas tree Wednesday, with nearly 200 reporters and camera crews huddled around, trying to get a glimpse, a sound bite, and if lucky, a conversation.

It was powerful agent Scott Boras, who has an annual tradition of holding court on the final full day at baseball's winter meetings, but never before has he drawn such a huge audience, with a gaggle of fans standing on the perimeter, including the Marlin Man.

Then again, Boras hasn't had a free agent player like Bryce Harper, who not only is expected to eclipse Alex Rodriguez's record 10-year, \$175 million contract as a free agent, but obliterate it.

Harper already flatly rejected a 10-year, \$300 million offer from the Washington Nationals in September, and is expected to receive a deal that may eclipse \$400 million.

"The qualifications to be young, to be extraordinary, to have the valuation they bring," Boras says, "there just aren't many players that get to that place. It's rare air."

There were no hints where Harper was leaning during Boras' hour-long chat, but he did say how much he respects Philadelphia Phillies owner John Middleton and Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf, who just so happen to be the two who aren't blinking at the price tag.

Boras didn't say that the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals were trying to be deceitful when they've publicly said they have no interest in bidding for Harper, but instead dropped this beauty of an analogy:

"When the nurse walks in the



Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper, center, celebrates his solo home run with his teammates during the fourth inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves at Nationals Park, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018, in Washington. AP

free agent outfielder Billy Hamilton to a one-year, \$5 million contract, so how are they going to suddenly find room for a player making at least \$35 million a year? And the last the Cubs checked, no one was calling to take Yu Darvish and his \$126 million contract or right fielder Jason Heyward, who has five years and \$136 million left on his deal.

Really, perhaps the team to watch during these proceedings are the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Sure, they already have a surplus of outfielders. Dodgers president Andrew Friedman has never signed a free agent to a contract worth \$100 million. And they certainly proved they really don't need Harper by winning back-to-back National League pennants.

But they love their stars in L.A., with Boras marketing Harper as a LeBron James in spikes.

The Dodgers are being creative in trade talks at these meetings, discussing a complicated deal with the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians in which they could trade outfielder Yasiel Puig and pitcher Alex Wood to the Reds, get back a slew of prospects, and send those along to Cleveland in a deal for ace Corey Kluber.

The Dodgers, who also are actively shopping Matt Kemp, suddenly would have a hole in the outfield for a certain All-Star right fielder.

room with the thermometer, the issue is not what the thermometer says that day," Boras said, "the issue is what's the health of the patient when they're ready to leave the hospital."

Boras certainly wasn't about to reveal who's really in or out on the Harper sweepstakes, or what teams Harper has met with in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, but the picture is becoming clear.

The Phillies remain the favorites. They plan to make the largest offer, unless free agent infielder Manny Machado decides to take their money first.

The White Sox also are

deeply invested to make their franchise relevant again, but questions remain whether they seriously will make a bid in the \$300 million range. Their last marquee free agent signing was Adam Dunn, to a 4-year, \$56 million contract in 2010. And the next mega contract with a Boras client will be their first.

Still, the White Sox are making it known they want to be big-time players, meeting in person with Harper for five hours on Nov. 19, with White Sox vice president Ken Williams, general manager Rick Hahn and Hall of Famer Jim

Thome in attendance. Yet, Reinsdorf was not at the meeting, and still has not granted permission for Williams and Hahn to negotiate a contract.

"I'm sure Jerry will do whatever's good business for him," Boras said.

And it's great business for the White Sox, Boras reiterated, for them to bring in one of the finest drawing cards in the game to a franchise that hasn't drawn two million fans since 2011.

The White Sox lost 100 games last season, haven't had a winning season since 2012, and their last playoff berth was

10 years ago. Yet, Boras says that as long as the organization is committed to winning over the long haul, Harper is willing to take October off for a year or two.

"I think the effectiveness of ownership in meetings," Boras said, "is their ability to create a winning modality that is consistent with what a club may do over a 10-, 15-year period."

The White Sox aren't convinced they are the only Chicago team interested in Harper, but there's no indication from the Cubs that they'll be involved. They didn't have room in their budget to sign

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays are perfectly comfortable putting relief pitchers on the mound to begin games. But the chance to add an All-Star to their patchwork rotation, that was too good to pass up.

Coming off a career-high 30 starts, Charlie Morton reached a \$30 million, two-year contract with the Rays, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract has not been officially announced.

The 35-year-old Morton was a first-time All-Star last season when he went 15-3 with a 3.13 ERA for Houston.

Morton helped the Astros win their first championship in 2017. He started and won

## Morton to Rays; Yankees closing in on Happ

Game 7 of the AL Championship Series against the Yankees, then was the winning pitcher in Game 7 of the World Series against the Dodgers with four innings of relief.

Morton's success with the Astros came after a career that had been beset by injuries and inconsistency. He'd undergone Tommy John surgery and was just 46-71 with Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for going to Houston.

The right-hander joins a Rays staff led by AL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell.

The Tampa Bay rotation was wrecked by injuries this year, and the team often used relief pitchers as starters in their "opener" strategy on the way to 90 wins.

The Rays' approach became a trend in baseball, especially when teams saw how well it worked. Tampa Bay went 46-38 with traditional starters and was 44-34 when using relievers at the start.

Manager Kevin Cash said earlier this week at the winter meetings that the Rays will employ the strategy again this season.

"I think right now we're discussing internally whether we do it two times through the rotation or three times through the rotation," Cash said Monday. "But the nice thing is we've got all that information last year and we have a bunch of candidates that we can fill in as a traditional starter if need be."

Two days later, the math

became a little easier with Morton.

### Machado next?

Meanwhile, the New York Yankees might finally be ready to strike a deal for starting pitcher J.A. Happ.

The Yankees and the free agent left-hander were reportedly working toward an agreement on what could be a three-year deal, though no deal was imminent as of late Wednesday morning, according to a club source.

But if the Yankees and Happ can find common ground, that would complete the club's starting rotation and streamline the focus on adding bullpen help—and perhaps adding Manny Machado.

The Yankees and Machado are scheduled to meet after the winter meetings, according to a report by Fancred.com. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman would not comment on that report when asked on Tuesday.

Happ, who turned 36 in October, went 7-0 with a 2.69 ERA in 11 starts for the Yankees, after being acquired from Toronto at the trade deadline.

But Happ stumbled in his American League Division Series start against the eventual world champion Boston Red Sox, a club he had performed well against in recent seasons.

The Yankees' interest in Happ was clear from the start,

though the team was exploring trade options—some on a large scale—in a relatively thin starter's market; the Yankees were not willing to meet the asking prices of their top free agent target, Patrick Corbin or Nathan Eovaldi.

Corbin signed a six-year deal with the Washington Nationals. Eovaldi signed a four-year deal with the Red Sox.

"Happ is aware of our comfort level and I know what he's trying to accomplish, and we'll see if we all match up," Cashman said earlier this week, without specifying contract length or dollars. "If not, he'll match up somewhere else."

With Happ, the Yankees rotation would be: RHP Luis Severino, LHP James Paxton, RHP Masahiro Tanaka, Happ and LHP CC Sabathia.



# Raptors rout Warriors without Kawhi for sweep



**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Kyle Lowry had 23 points and 12 assists to lead a balanced Toronto offense while leading scorer Kawhi Leonard sat out, Serge Ibaka added 20 points and the Raptors dominated Golden State from the start, routing the Warriors 113-93 on Wednesday night to complete a season sweep.

Danny Green scored 15 points, Pascal Siakam had 13 and Fred VanVleet added 10 to help the Raptors improve to an NBA-best 23-7, matching the best start in franchise history.

They did it despite not having Leonard for a second consecutive night. Toronto's star forward has a sore right hip and was questionable before the game before being ruled

out less than 30 minutes before tip-off.

The Raptors also lost 7-foot center Jonas Valanciunas to a dislocated left thumb in the first half.

Kevin Durant had 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists for Golden State. The Warriors had won four straight heading into a much-anticipated showdown between two teams many expect to reach the NBA Finals.

Despite playing the second half of a back-to-back following a 123-99 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday, Toronto appeared to be the fresher team. The Raptors repeatedly beat the sluggish Warriors to loose balls and outrebounded the two-time defending champs 48-40.

It was Toronto's first win in Oakland since Feb. 8, 2004.



Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, bottom, holds onto the ball as he is defended by Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018.

Schroder scored 24 points for Oklahoma City, which came in having won five of its previous six. Russell Westbrook had 20 points and four steals.

## Mavericks 114, Hawks 107

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, Luka Doncic added 24 and Dallas extended its home winning streak to 11 games while ending a 10-game skid against Atlanta.

J.J. Barea had 18 points before leaving with a sprained left ankle as the Mavericks finally beat the Hawks after blowing a 26-point lead in October.

It was Dallas' first win over Atlanta since Oct. 30, 2013.

## Jazz 111, Heat 84

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 21 points and Derrick Favors had 17 as Utah romped over short-handed Miami.

Rodney McGruder paced the Heat with 16 points and Kelly Olynyk had 14 as Miami played without Hassan Whiteside and Goran Dragic. Dwyane Wade, set to retire after the season, scored six points.

## Cavaliers 113, Knicks 106

In Cleveland, Jordan Clarkson scored 28 points and a basket by Rodney Hood in the fourth quarter gave Cleveland a late lead as the Cavaliers dealt New York its fifth straight loss.

Hood put the Cavaliers in

front 107-106 with 23 seconds remaining after New York took a one-point lead on rookie Kevin Knox's fast-break dunk with 32 seconds left.

Hood added 23 points, rookie Collin Sexton scored 19 and Matthew Dellavedova, playing his first home game for Cleveland since being re-acquired from Milwaukee, had 15 points.

## Hornets 108, Pistons 107

In Charlotte, Jeremy Lamb hit a 22-foot jumper from the right wing with 0.3 seconds left, and Charlotte Hornets rallied from a late 10-point deficit for a wild win.

Lamb's buzzer-beater came with controversy. As he released the ball, Malik Monk ran off the Hornets' bench and onto the floor early to celebrate the made basket.

Officials reviewed the play and called one-shot technical on the Hornets for having six men on the court. The basket counted. The Pistons made the technical free throw, but the ensuing inbounds pass was intercepted.

Kemba Walker finished with 31 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Hornets.

## Nets 127, 76ers 124

In Philadelphia, Spencer Dinwiddie scored a career-high 39 points off the bench and Allen Crabbe had 20, leading Brooklyn.

Joel Embiid had 33 points and 17 rebounds and Ben Simmons scored 22 for Philadelphia, which played without Jimmy Butler because of a strained groin.

Joe Harris had 14 points for Brooklyn, which notched its second victory over Philadelphia in three meetings.

## Suns owner threatens to move team to Seattle or Las Vegas

**ARIZONA**—A In 1992, the Suns committed to a 40-year lease at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, but the agreement included a provision for the team to opt out at 30 years if the building—one of the oldest in the NBA—is considered obsolete.

That could allow the Suns to leave downtown Phoenix in 2022 if there's no new agreement.

With a City Council vote on a \$230 million renovation plan delayed, it has been revealed that Suns owner Robert Sarver has told some council members he might move the team to Seattle or Las Vegas.

If the Suns leave, Phoenix would have to take over op-

erations and maintenance of the building, and would still have to invest in significant infrastructure repairs if it wants to attract concerts and other events, according to the city.

In a statement, Suns President and CEO Jason Rowley said the team was aware of the request to delay the vote and will answer any questions the community has.

"We very much look forward to publicly discussing the many ways in which Talking Stick Resort Arena benefits downtown Phoenix and our community at large, and answering any questions the council and their constituents have about the arena and the proposed renovation," he said.

## Celtics 130, Wizards 125

In Washington, Kyrie Irving scored Boston's last 12 points, including back-to-back 3-pointers in the final 40 seconds of overtime to outduel John Wall in a point-guard showdown, and the Celtics extended their winning streak to seven games with a victory over the Washington Wizards.

Irving finished with 38 points and seven assists. Marcus Morris added 27 points and nine rebounds for Boston.

## Pacers 113, Bucks 97

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young had 25 points, 11 rebounds and four assists, and Myles Turner added 23 points, leading Indiana to its fifth straight win.

Indiana pulled within a half-game of the Central Division-leading Bucks.

Eric Bledsoe scored 26 points and Malcolm Brogdon finished with 15 to lead Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo had a season-low 12 points, grabbed 10 rebounds

and dealt out seven assists.

## Grizzlies 92, Trail Blazers 83

In Memphis, Mike Conley scored 23 points and keyed a fourth-quarter outburst as Memphis snapped a two-game losing streak.

Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 14 points, and MarShon Brooks added 13 for the Grizzlies.

C.J. McCollum matched his season high with 40 points, while Damian Lillard was held to a season-low 14 points, connecting on only 4 of 18 shots.

## Pelicans 118, Thunder 114

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 44 points and 18 rebounds, and inconsistent New Orleans narrowly held on to defeat Oklahoma City.

Jrue Holiday had 20 points and 10 assists, and Julius Randle added 22 for New Orleans, which has alternated wins and losses in its past 10 games.

Paul George had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Dennis

VERY

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# Injured Wentz could sit rest of season



**PHILADELPHIA**—The Philadelphia Eagles aren't technically eliminated from the NFL playoff race, but it's not looking good. And they might be going forward without their quarterback.

Carson Wentz is dealing with a back injury, and NFL Network's Ian Rapoport said he isn't expected to play on Sunday night when the Eagles play the Los Angeles Rams. What's more, Wentz might be held out the rest of the season depending on what happens Sunday, Rapoport said. The implication being, if the Eagles are officially eliminated from the playoffs, there wouldn't be much reason to bring Wentz back for the final two weeks and risk further injury.

Perhaps that changes, even this week. But a bad season for the Eagles is getting worse.

The last time Wentz and the Eagles played the Rams in Los Angeles, Wentz came in as a top MVP candidate and perhaps the best young quarterback in football.

Wentz tore his ACL against the Rams, and that gave Nick Foles a chance to become an Eagles legend. Foles led the Eagles to a



AP  
Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz (11) throws a pass as he is grabbed by Tennessee Titans linebacker Jayon Brown in the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn.

championship, winning Super Bowl MVP honors.

Wentz has been good this season, but nowhere near MVP contention. He has started 11 games, with 3,074 yards,

21 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He's not the same threat running the ball as he was last season. He looks like a quarterback in the first year back from ACL surgery.

Eliot Shorr-Parks of 94 WIP pointed out that Wentz was limited to one day in practice in Weeks 6, 7 and 8. It's possible the back issue, described by Eagles coach Doug Pederson as spasms, has been affecting him all season. It would explain a lot.

Meanwhile, the Eagles have fallen hard, from 13-3 and a title a year ago to 6-7 and barely hanging on to any hope

of making the playoffs.

We've seen the Eagles win big without Wentz before, but this is a much different Eagles team.

The Eagles won't be expected to beat the Rams on Sunday. They wouldn't even with Wentz, but it becomes a lot tougher without their start-

ing quarterback.

Because nobody seems to want to grab the NFC's second wild-card spot, the Eagles could lose and still be alive in the playoff race. The Eagles will have to evaluate everything as it pertains to Wentz playing, not just this week but in Weeks 16 or 17 too.

## Las Vegas to host draft in 2020 with Raiders inbound

**IRVING, Texas (AP)**—The NFL will hold its 2020 draft in Las Vegas.

Ahead of the Oakland Raiders' expected debut season in the city, the three-day event will set up on and around the Las Vegas Strip.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Raiders owner Mark Davis announced the move Wednesday at league meetings.

"Bringing the Raiders to Las Vegas was more than just 10 football games a year," Davis said. "When you bring the National Football League somewhere, they get a lot of ancillary benefits. The draft is one of them."

"We're totally excited."

The Raiders announced their move to Las Vegas in March 2017. Their stadium is under construction and not expected to be completed until after the draft in 2020. But the league plans to hold some type of event at or around stadium property.

The iconic Strip scene follows drafts on the Rocky steps in Philadelphia in 2017 and lower Broadway in Nashville this spring.

Kansas City and Cleveland also submitted proposals for consideration as 2019 and 2020 draft hosts.

The 2018 draft in Arlington, Texas, generated a record \$125.2 million in economic impact (\$74 million in direct spending), according to a report by VisitDallas, and attracted more than 200,000 fans.

The city of Oakland announced Tuesday it will file a federal antitrust lawsuit against the NFL, Raiders and remaining 31 teams. The lawsuit, the city attorney said, will seek damages including lost revenue and allege legal violations for "boycotting Oakland."

The Raiders, in the last year of their lease at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, haven't announced where they'll play in 2019.

## MGA July and August Ace tomorrow

Marianas Golf Association will make up for lost time as it holds the July and August Ace of the Month tournament this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

"We are kind of late with our monthly Aces due to all the golf tournaments early this year and with the storm (Super Typhoon Yutu) that just hit us but we will be back on point soon as we have started to proceed with our double ace of the month format," MGA official Calvin Yamagishi said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, MGA also had

a double Ace of the month (May and June) last Dec. 2 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort with 14 members competing.

Sebastian Camacho went on to take the May Ace after posting a net 65. The 15-handicapper had a 39 and 41 on the front and back nines, respectively for a gross 80.

The other award (June Ace) at stake belonged to Ron Benavente, who carded a net 68 after registering a 43 in the first nine holes and 41 in the

last. Benavente holds a 16 handicap and recorded a gross 84, finishing second to Gerald Guerrero, but the former ended up with the June Ace, as the latter had already won the April tournament. The 19-handicapper Guerreto fired a 38 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a net 63 and gross 82.

In other results, Tony Satur, Sebastian Camacho, Patrick George, and Benavente were the closest to the winners on hole Nos. 4, 6, 11, and 15, respectively. (*Saipan Tribune*)



## LADY

From Page 32

to call a timeout in an effort to halt the Knights' momentum.

However, the Knights kept going when the game resumed, as Han this time drew help from Angela Jun and Keloney Virrey. Jun showcased her versatility by alternating setter duties with Han in the remainder of the game and making six serves in the second set. Virrey also provided the MCS 1 a steady service game with her string of three serves.

In other results, Mt. Carmel made it 2-0 yesterday in the girls division play, after its

junior varsity team defeated Agape Christian School, 25-21, 25-19, at the Knights' court in Chalan Kanoa.

Mt. Carmel's JV squad secured its first win of the season after going 0-3, while the Lady Torchbearers stumbled to a 0-4 record.

Meanwhile, Grace Christian Academy was scheduled to host SIS boys team and SIS 1 (girls) yesterday, but both games were postponed due to the unavailability of a qualified referee. This was the second time the Eagles were not able to lace up for their matches because of the lack of game officials.

"The referee assigned to

our game cannot come for some reasons," GCA head coach Cesar Libut said. "The coaches decided to postpone the game because both schools don't have available referees. We are going to reschedule this game in January."

GCA will be moving on after the reset matches, as it will host Mt. Carmel on Tuesday. The boys varsity game will take place first at 3:30pm, while the girls match is slated for 4:30pm. Over at the Agape court in Middle Road, the hosts will challenge SIS boys and girls teams. Rounding out the Dec. 18 play date is the faceoff between SIS 2 and MCS JV, with the former hosting the latter at 3:30pm.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 32

eas. Tsunami Saipan checked the Marpi pool last month and even though the group's officials did not go inside the fa-

cility, they knew that it badly needs a cleanup.

The facility is now under DPL and Tsunami Saipan has sought permission from the agency to enter the property and clean it. Tsunami Saipan

president Hiroko Kimura told *Saipan Tribune* that they are just completing some paperwork and once they are finalized and they get the approval from DPL, the club will hold a cleanup at the facility.

## CHAMPS

From Page 32

cording 1:41.49 in the finals, while Lithuania's Rapsys Danas (1:41.78) and Australia's Alexander Graham (1:42.28) took the silver and bronze, respectively.

After Suzuki completed his first event in the short-course (25m) meet, it was Batallones' turn to see action for the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation and he competed on Heat 2 of the 100m butterfly race. The 16-year-old swimmer timed in at 1:05.15 in his group that had Nigeria's Philip Adejumo (53.62 second) as top finisher. The medal winners in the event had yet to be determined, as the finals was scheduled last night. Russian Cha Le Clos (49.07 seconds), Chinese Zhuhao Li (49.36), American Caeleb Dressel

(48.93 seconds), and German Marius Kusch (49.35 seconds) led the finalists list after taking the Top 2 spots in the two semis races.

In other results last Wednesday, Jinju Thompson completed her pair of races in the biennial tournament after participating in the qualifiers for the 100m freestyle event. She registered 1:09.05 on Heat 3 to place ahead of Sudan's Haneen Ibrahim (1:20.27) and East Timor's Imelda Felicyta Ximenes Belo (1:23.07). North Korea's Mi Song Pak (58.89 seconds) ruled the heat, while the Netherlands' Femke Heemskerk led the eight finalists in the event after logging 51.84 seconds in the semis.

Meanwhile, Batallones will have his last race—50m butterfly—in the tournament today. The Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member is on

Heat 4 of the qualifiers and will be competing against Laos' Slava Sihanouvong, Ghana's Papa Yaw Dwumoh Poku-Dwumoh, Tanzania's Collins Saliboko, Palestine's Nabeel Hatoum, Rwanda's Isiaka Isihaka, Grenada's Dajanel Williams, Kenya's Ridwan Abubakar Mohamed, Cape Verde's Troy Pina, and Swaziland's Simanga Dlamini.

As for Suzuki, he will close out for Team CNMI, as he races on Heat 3 of the 100m freestyle event tomorrow. Suzuki will be going up against Mongolia's Delgerkhuu Myagmar, Sint Maarten's Vadym Semkiv, the Marshall Islands' Phillip Kinono, Solomon Islands' Clifton Daromani, Guinea's Mamadou Tahirou Bah, Seychelles' Dean Hoffman, Nicaragua's Kener Torrez, and Burundi's Carel Van Melvin Irakoze.



# CCOPSA High School Volleyball League

PHOTOS By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN



A Saipan International School 2 player is poised to return the ball to Mt. Carmel School's varsity team during their game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association High School Volleyball League yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito.



A Saipan International School 2 rushes to hit the ball.



A Mt. Carmel School junior varsity player hits the ball near the net during their game against MCS varsity squad at the Lady Knights court in Chalan Kanoa.



Mt. Carmel School's Princess Alcantara goes for an underhand serve.



Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Han releases the ball for an overhand serve.



A Mt. Carmel School junior varsity player stretches to receive the ball served by a MCS junior varsity player.



A Mt. Carmel School varsity player attempts to tap the ball over during their match against MCS junior varsity.





Harper  
sweepstakes at  
winter meetings

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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32 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Lady Knights top opponents

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN  
pamintuanrobby@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**M**ount Carmel School claimed a pair of victories in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association High School Volleyball League yesterday.

Mt. Carmel 1 stymied SIS 2, nabbing a win over the Lady Geckos after only two sets, 26-24, 25-18, at the SIS court in As Lito.

The first set was a nail-biter, as the opposing teams were still getting the feel of each other's game. The Lady Knights and the Lady Geck-



os were evenly matched in the opener as they engaged in a deadlock on five occasions (9-9, 14-14, 18-18, 23-23, 24-24). After breathing on each other's neck, MCS persevered through the pressure and take the victory, as Alice Choi went for two consecutive clutch



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

A Mt. Carmel School 1 player eyes to return the ball to Saipan International School 2 during the second set of their game in the CCOPSA high school volleyball league at the SIS court in As Lito.

## Tsunami Saipan renews call to open pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan has renewed its clamor to reopen the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The group's call would be heard anew when it holds a "Walk to Reopen the Pool" this Saturday. The walk, which is free and open to the public, will be from the 13 Fishermen in Beach Road to Paseo De Marianas and will start at 4pm. Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said club members and their parents and supporters will join the walk.

"There are 70 swimmers belonging to Tsunami Saipan now and we invited all. We hope swimmers from Dolphin Club Saipan and Saipan Swim Club will join, too," said Kimura, whose group had earlier launched an online signature campaign to keep the facility open.

The 50-meter pool in Marpi eventually shut down after Kan Pacific's lease extension agreement with the Department of Public Lands expired last Sept 30 and it has been closed for more than two months now. There's no indication that the pool will reopen soon, especially after Saipan was slammed by Super Typhoon Yutu last October. The already deteriorating facility was also not spared by Yutu's wrath, as tin roofs at the

restroom and holding area were detached and the wall just past the entrance was damaged.

The water in the pool, which hasn't been cleaned since the facility shut down, is murky and moss continues to grow in the surrounding ar-

**See TSUNAMI on Page 30**

overhand serves that SIS 2 failed to receive.

Then for the the second set, the early stages of the match

appeared to be another back-and-forth affair until MCS team captain Louisa Han stepped up to the serving line

with the score at 7-6 in the Knights' favor. Han went on to complete five consecutive serves, pushing the score to

12-6 and prompting SIS 2 coach Kristopher D'Alterio

**See LADY on Page 30**

## Batallones, Suzuki debut in world champs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI swimmers Nelson Batallones and Lennosuke

Suzuki plunged into the pool at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China for their first event in the 14th FINA World Cham-

pionships last Wednesday.

Suzuki raced in the 200m free-style qualifiers and clocked



FINA  
WORLD SWIMMING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (25M)

in at 2:06.54 on Heat 2, which was won by Puerto Rico's Yeziel Morales Miranda after submit-

ting 1:50.73. American Blake Pieroni topped the event and won the gold medal after re-

**See CHAMPS on Page 30**



SUZUKI



BATALLONES